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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2014

COPING WITH BEREAVEMENT

Pages 18 and 19

Menter Bro Morgannwg and GEM in partnership

Page 11

Cycling star's home town book signing

Page 26

'Bruno... Bruno...'

SEE FRANK ON BACK PAGE



It's sheer Blisse as five year old meets Santa...

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL, who suffers from serious health problems, was thrilled when Father Christmas made a special visit to her home.

Blisse Mellens, who attends Ysgol

y Deri in Penarth, and lives at the Waterfront in Barry, was born with two rare brain malformations which have a severe impact on her health. She has suffered from delays in development, seizures and epilepsy.

Her mum, Laura, told The GEM:

"One of Blisse's favourite things is lights, so she especially loves Christmas.

"Last year, she was very poorly and didn't get out of hospital until Christmas Eve, so we didn't get to do anything in the run-up to Christmas."

Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service spotted a post on social media saying how much Blisse wanted to see Father Christmas, but had been ill.

Laura said: "Blisse has not been doing so well of late, so taking her out is proving difficult - this was such a lovely thing for Nicola and her husband,

Lyndsay, to do for us. "They also donated £250, so we can get

The day Father (and Mother) Christmas came to call!



EXCLUSIVE GEM REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Blisse a Big Mac Switch (to record things) and some spare iPod covers (a comfy armchair).

"They also didn't forget Blisse's sister Nevaeh, who had lots of make-up."

"The five-foot Minnie Mouse was thanks to donations from the Vale Funeral Service's memorial Christmas service, so we want to thank everyone who was there."

"Santa and Mrs Claus were so kind to her - it is the first time Blisse has seen Father Christmas and it is a

fabulous family memory and photo to treasure. If it hadn't been for Nicola and Lyndsay, Blisse wouldn't have seen Father Christmas this year."

Blisse's dad, Ashley, added: "Going out in the cold can be quite dangerous for Blisse, so it was amazing that Nicola and Lyndsay made such an effort to bring him here."

Lyndsay said: "It was emotional and uplifting. It is hard for Laura and Ashley, but they are amazing parents and it was a privilege for Nicola to help them."

Nicola thanked Sarah Creasey (alias Mrs Claus) who helped to organise Father Christmas's special visit.

As you can see, John O'Beirne of Vale Press Pictures was on hand to capture a wonderful image of a never-to-be-forgotten family moment!

ABOVE: Blisse (centre) was treated to her very own special visit by Father Christmas thanks to Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis, of

The Vale Funeral Service. (Picture by JOHN O'BEIRNE of VALE PRESS PICTURES) valepresspix@lineone.net

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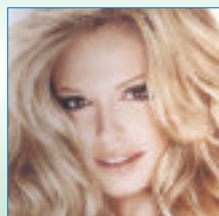
Pleasure park's progress?

IN recent weeks, there has been optimism that the long term future of Barry Island Pleasure Park might be resolved - and there was a further development this week.

For more on this story turn to page 5.

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Hip op can make massive difference

I READ the letter from J G Morgan of Pontyclun concerning hip operations, in The GEM, Thursday, December 4.

In June 2013, I was told by the team in CAVOC at Llandough that the waiting time was six to nine months for a hip replacement operation.

By the end of March 2014, I was still waiting, so I contacted the hospital and told them that I was in extreme pain, fed up with waiting and when did they think I would have my operation?

I also said I would keep contacting them until they fitted me in.

I eventually had my total hip replacement on

September 3, 2014 and it is a complete success. I have been back in work for six weeks now, and I haven't looked back.

It would be lovely if Mark Drakeford's 15-week wait would come true for others in a similar position of waiting for a replacement hip or knee.

All I can say is, if you don't hear from the NHS in that time, keep on at them. They will soon tire of you and will, hopefully, do the operation you so desperately want.

It is the best thing that's happened to me in the last four months. It's wonderful to be pain-free.

Caroline Scott, Barry

'So many people came to my aid'

ON Friday, November 28, while shopping in the Barry branch of Waitrose, I unfortunately fell at the entrance and immediately received help from the in-store first-aid, who called a paramedic.

A member of staff found my husband in the store; they then put my shopping through the till, packed it and took it to our car.

I was taken to the A&E department of the University of Wales Hospital at the Heath, as there is no A&E at either the Barry hospital

or at Llandough Hospital. When I arrived at the casualty department, I was quickly seen (I was bleeding quite profusely) by a nurse, a sister, a doctor and other members of staff. After an x-ray, I was told I had broken my nose!

I would like to praise both Waitrose and the staff at Heath Hospital for the excellent care and attention I received.

The nursing staff were so kind and caring and do not deserve the criticism aimed at them by the general public.

Well done to you all.

Thank you.

Mrs Hazel Morgan, St Athan.

Housing could stymie Island plan

I AM in total agreement with Mr Bertin (letters, December 4). It would be so nice for the pleasure park area of Barry Island to have an all weather complex.

As far as I can see, the stumbling block will be if houses get built on the Dolphin site first. Then there will be no leisure facility built on the fairground site because it will never get planning permission.

Would you want a fairground at the bottom of your garden?
Susan Wilson, Barry.

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Cuts necessary – but threat to library unfair' IS Rhosee just a cash cow?

ANDREW BAILEY'S comments about Rhosee being a cash cow for the Vale Council got me thinking ('Cabinet needs to explain strategy on Rhosee library', GEM letters, December 4).

According to census figures, the population of Rhosee in 2001 was 3,574. By 2011, that figure had doubled to 6,907.

During that time of rapid expansion in the population of the village, I understand that council-operated facilities for Rhosee have remained largely unchanged (currently a primary school, a library, a small park and two halls available for hire to the community).

Work is currently under way on constructing yet more new homes in Rhosee. The LDP plans for almost 750 further homes to be built in Rhosee and it is easily possible that the population of Rhosee could swell to 10,000 people.

We might soon become the third largest population centre in the Vale, behind Barry and Penarth. The council must be licking its lips at the thought of all that extra council tax.

You'd have thought that with a rapidly-expanding population, there would be an obligation for Vale Council to provide improved facilities.

Apparently not in the case of Rhosee.

Not only are there no plans for any improved or new facilities for Rhosee, but our library is having its opening hours reduced and, to add insult to injury, we are now being blackmailed with the community library proposal – "you run the library or we will close it".

If community-run libraries are such a good idea, why are they not being proposed across every library in the Vale?

With its lack of investment in facilities for the community of Rhosee, the council is surely creating social problems for the future.

The elderly, the young, the disabled and the unemployed have most to lose from the potential loss of our library service – a valued public service that actually improves the quality of life of its users.

I do understand as well as anybody that in the current economic climate cuts are necessary. But what is grossly unfair is that the Vale Council can impose a 20 per cent cut on

its library service and then hand down the bulk of those cuts across just a few villages within the Vale that it thinks are too weak to resist them.

This underestimates the strength of feeling in Rhosee and surrounding communities to the threat to our library service.

Planners are allowed to get away with expanding Rhosee whilst other groups within the council look to cut our already inadequate services. Do they not talk to each other?

It seems that there must be a vacancy within Vale Council for somebody to put in place some joined-up thinking.

I would be amazed that such a person does not already exist within an authority with such an enormous wage bill.

But if they do exist, they don't seem to be doing their job properly – which is to the detriment of the people of Rhosee.

Anybody with an opinion on this is invited to come along to the public meeting of the Save Rhosee Library campaign, at Rhosee Social Club on Monday, December 15.

Adam Riley, East Aberthaw.

Why single out Five Mile Lane?

I'M curious about regional AM Andrew Davies' comments in The GEM regarding Five Mile Lane. I wonder if all country roads are appalling to him, or whether he has a particular interest in this one, as it would open the way to yet more building in an already over-stretched Barry.

Five Mile Lane is not

appalling – it is over-used by the poor commuters attempting to get to and from work.

To address this problem, there needs to be better bottom road access to Cardiff, and a halt put on any more development on Port Road.

Upgrading Five Mile Lane is not the answer; it is a small road through pretty countryside which has been in existence through history. I have concerns regarding Mr Davies' motives.

Sue Eldridge, Barry.

£1,200 for charity!

THE Cowbridge Stitch 'n Bitch coffee morning and craft sale held on November 29 in Lesser Hall Cowbridge raised a staggering £1,200 for the British Heart Foundation. We would like to thank all those who helped make it such a great success, both helpers and shoppers! Monica Dennis.

Tale of two drivers

LAST Wednesday, my disabled mother was travelling on Boverton Road in Llantwit Major (adjacent to the rugby field) on her mobility scooter when, due to some uneven surface, her scooter flipped over and flung her into the main road.

It was by pure chance that she was not killed, and we are thankful that she escaped relatively unscathed, with only a few minor cuts and bruises.

However, our relief quickly turned to abject horror and disgust when my mother told us that a car travelling down the road just after it happened merely swerved to avoid her before continuing on their journey – leaving my mum, a 76-year-

registered disabled lady, lying in the middle of the road.

While we are appreciative that evasive action was taken by the woman who manoeuvred her large grey 4x4 so as not to drive over my mum, I had hoped that she might then have pulled over and at the very least check to see if she was okay and help her out of harm's way!

Unfortunately not, this woman obviously had places to go and people to see and continued on her very important journey.

Luckily, a wonderful lady who was driving behind the other woman immediately stopped to help and ensured my mum was okay before taking her home.

To that lady, thank you so much, we are so grateful. To the other lady – shame on you! (Name and address supplied)

'Colossal response to Poppy Appeal'

WE have just completed the interim Poppy Appeal accounts for the year commencing October 1, and so far we have raised £43,434.47.

By comparison, for the whole of the year October 2013 – September 2014, we raised just over £33,000 – so this is a colossal achievement. Our heartfelt thanks

go out to the people of Barry, Rhosee and Peterston, who have contributed so generously and given of their time so freely, in order to achieve this. 'Thankyou' seems inadequate!!

The winner of the rugby shirt we were raffling for the Poppy Appeal was Gordon Mugford, from Barry. He bought his ticket at the Wartime Weekend. Roy Goodwin, Poppy Appeal, Barry Royal British Legion.

Killing off town trade

IVISITED Holton Road, Barry on November 30 and was pleasantly surprised at the sense of community and volume of trade; there were cars parked both sides of the road with traffic flowing freely.

After completing my

'Town rents: don't blame the landlords'

IREFER to Ann Hayward's letter and agree entirely with what she says about Dai John and family; there is no doubt they are a great asset to Cowbridge.

However, I cannot agree with her comments regarding the landlords. I and other landlords in the town have not increased rentals for approximately ten years.

And in order to further assist our tenants, we have reduced the normal terms of contract from three months rent

in advance to one month, thereby helping them with their cash flow!

One of the contributory factors for business closures has been down the Government's refusal to bow to the pressure of the CBI, who have requested that business rates should not be put above inflation.

Therefore, it is not solely down to landlords who by the way, are not "matching Bond Street" rates, as suggested by Mrs Hayward. Brian Wadham, Cowbridge.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
11 Thur	09.05	9.1	21.24	8.9
12 Fri	09.42	8.7	22.03	8.4
13 Sat	10.22	8.5	22.47	8.0
14 Sun	11.08	7.9	23.41	7.7
15 Mon			12.08	7.7
16 Tues	00.48	7.6	13.13	7.8
17 Wed	01.59	7.7	14.26	7.8
18 Thur	03.05	8.0	15.28	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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'More clarity needed on St Cyres site' says councillor

DETAILS of the 'vision' for the development of the former St Cyres School site in Dinas Powys have been revealed following a marketing launch by the Vale Council.

The site covers a 30 acre site and the Vale Council aims to build over 300 houses on it.

Villagers have argued for a local amenity component to the site and a section of it will be dedicated for community use.

Plaid county councillor Chris Franks said: "It appears that the council is determined to build on the site.

"In the marketing documents there is no reference to how the traffic problems will be addressed.

"The developers have to make proposals but that's all the Vale requires at this stage. I

am concerned that this is too vague.

"The successful developer will have to submit a master plan that will indicate how it plans to provide the community facilities.

"Again, it's not clear whether it will be simply a matter of reserving land or actually financing the facilities in whole or in part. So there's a lot of uncertainty.

"Plaid is very concerned about the impact the additional traffic that will be created.

"The developers will have to allocate funds for transport, community and amenity development.

"However again we need more clarity once the developers submit their bids," added Coun Franks.

LIB-DEM SURGERY

ELUNED PARROTT, Welsh Lib-Dem AM for South Wales Central, will be at Morrison's Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA, between 1pm and 2pm on December 12. No appointment is necessary.

Resident's concern as home insurance increases due to local flood scheme

by GEM REPORTER

A resident who lives near Dyfan open space – part of which is to be converted into a lagoon as a flood prevention measure – says her house insurance has increased recently.

Tracey Aberly, who lives in Laburnam Close just yards from the area, explained

that a stipulation of her insurance was that if 'flood storage' work was being carried out nearby the company had to be informed.

"If we hadn't informed them, our insurance would have been invalid.

"You have to inform insurance companies if water attenuation is taking place within a

certain distance of your property.

"Our insurance was due in November and we had to switch insurers, and it meant £70 more a year.

"I'm concerned that residents who live near Dyfan open space may not realise that they have to inform their insurance companies of what is going on."

She points out that over a 10 year period householders could be paying another £700, and that doesn't even take into account inflation.

Tracey has lived in Laburnam Close for eight years and says that the worst year, during that period, was in 2007. In her case the water flooded the ground outside her house, but didn't seep indoors.

She said part of the

problem locally was that solid brick walls between houses meant water was trapped and couldn't drain away, and that residents have now taken action to avoid that happening in the future.

She and her husband Tony believe that the key means of resolving the threat of flooding is regular maintenance of local drains, something the Vale Council is undertaking.

Recently, representatives of the Vale Council did hold a meeting to explain issues surrounding flooding works.

Tracey says she hopes further meetings will be held to address further concerns regarding removal of hedgerows, construction of fencing and insurance.

Dickensian night of fun



LEFT: Coun Ian Johnson with Nic Froud of the local Credit Union.

DESPITE the cold and a brief shower nothing dampened the spirit at the Dickensian night in Dinas Powys.

Paul Williams of Rotary led his team of hard working colleagues all day to ensure all was in place for the evening. The Community Council Christmas tree looked great and there was tremendous support from local voluntary organisations.

Entertainment

included carols from the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band and scouts prepared Welsh cakes and burgers.

Bethesda Chapel had a very impressive Star at the Stable/Seren y Stabl stall albeit with some very strange 'Wise Men' who might have been Chris Franks, John Foote, Roger Newbery and David Dean.

For the first time the Credit Union covering the Vale attended and there was even a mini helicopter from the Welsh Ambulance Service.

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Paneer Tikka	£5.50
Tandoori Jhinga	£8.50
Tandoori Thali (N)	£9.00

APPACOMINENTS

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Chutney/Pickle	£0.65
Cucumber Raitha	£1.50

CHEF SIGNATURE DISHES

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EASTERN PROMENADE A 'JEWEL IN THE CROWN' OF BARRY ISLAND



ABOVE: The new Barry Island beach huts.

THE Eastern Promenade development at Barry Island has been completed and will soon be open to the public.

The final 'snagging' process has been progressing over recent weeks and the site was officially handed over to the council on December 5.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for

regeneration, said: "The delays in the project have been frustrating, as has the snagging process, but I'm now very pleased to announce the promenade is open for everyone to enjoy."

"We were very aware of the delays, and as such were not willing to compromise on quality. Hopefully, Barry Island can now become the jewel in the crown of the Vale that we always knew it could be."

Big thumbs up for Llandough Primary School

LLANDOUGH Primary School has received a rating of 'good', the second highest rating, in every area of its recent Estyn inspection.

Both the school's current performance and

prospects for improvement were praised as 'good' by the inspection team, and the report also commended the school's 'happy, inclusive community' and the "high level of care, support and guidance" provided by staff.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, said: "I'd like to congratulate the school on a very impressive report. To achieve such a consistently high standard across every area of the school, is a fantastic achievement and shows the dedication of governors, the headteacher, staff and, of course pupils. Well done to all involved."

The report also said: "The headteacher and senior management team provide clear strategic direction in

leading and managing the school" and that "all members of staff are clear about their roles, work effectively as a team and are fully involved in school improvement activities."

Headteacher, Mrs Susan Evans, said: "This report is a celebration of the hard work and effort by all those involved in Llandough Primary."

"The inspection team recognised our many strengths and I am exceptionally proud to be the head teacher of such a successful school."

Mr John MacFarlane, the chair of the governing body said: "The governing body and I are delighted with the outcome of our recent inspection, as it confirms and reflects the high standards that the school consistently attains."

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Find out more about Dinas Powys area

THERE has been "huge interest" in display boards erected on the Common and on the Twyn in the centre of Dinas Powys.

The boards highlight historical buildings across the community and provide suggested routes to tour the village.

The project was planned by Dinas Powys Community Council and the chairman of the council, Chris Franks, thanked Creative Rural Communities for financial support.

He also expressed appreciation for the

archive photographs supplied by Mike Baker of Dinas Powys Picture and the Local History Society that had provided valuable information.

The walk, commencing on the Twyn, passes the three pubs, then up Highwalls to Ebenezer Church, then down Heol y Cawl towards the castle, then to the Old Mill site and across Mill Fields to the Iron Age forts.

A slight retracing of the steps led to the Highwalls Farm (now the Golf Club) and One o'clock Gate, with the option of walking down the Beauville, the Twyncyn and onto the Common.

The walk in the

opposite direction passes the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the manse, the site of the Malthouse, the station and the site of St Winnifreds.

A second board, located on the Common off Mount Road, shows an illustration of a farm complex existing during the Roman era.

Earthworks have been identified on the Common. These became very clear during a period of drought when, from the air, the outline of the buildings became very defined.

Each information board is equipped with a QR barcode that allows access to a great deal more information.

RHOOSE MEETING

THE 'Save Rhose Library' campaign will be holding a public meeting on Monday, December 15, in the Rhose Sports and Social Club at 7.30pm.

Senior library staff, politicians and councillors have been invited and the public will be able to fill in a library consultation form, sign a petition, and receive advice on sending letters to the council.

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ANTI-TERROR POLICE CARRY OUT RAIDS IN BARRY AND CARDIFF

THERE were raids in Barry and Cardiff on Thursday, December 4, during which five men were arrested under the Terrorism Act.

Officers investigating support for proscribed organisations executed six warrants.

Four men were later released on police bail. A fifth man remained in police custody while investigations continued.

The Wales Extremism Counter Terror Unit (WECTU) emphasised that the investigation did not concern any immediate threat to public safety.

A police spokesman said: "We would like to thank those who have assisted us and would appeal to others with any information they consider relevant to get in touch. Any information will be carefully assessed and responded to sensitively and proportionately."

On Friday, December 5, the North East Counter

Terrorism Unit (NECTU) and Wales Extremism Counter Terror Unit confirmed they had been granted a warrant of 'further detention' to continue questioning a 19-year-old man under Section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The police said he had also been arrested concerning a further offence under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Anti Terrorism hotline on 0800 789 321.

LICENCE APPLICATION FOR EVENTS AT THE KNAP IS WITHDRAWN – WITH DISCUSSIONS TO FOLLOW

THE Knap Community Action group is opposing an activity and entertainment licence application by the parks department for the popular gardens area.

(As The GEM went to press, the Vale Council confirmed it would withdraw the application so further discussions could take place).

The licence would have allowed parties, films, live music, dance performances and street entertainment.

The Knap group is distributing a leaflet to residents which says it has no objection to Barry Brass Band playing on a Sunday afternoon or similar family events, but opposes activities which it says are likely to cause disruption.

A spokesman explained: "Members of the group were shocked to see an application for various events in the park.

"Committee members met and all agreed that this application should be fought. There has been no consultation over this issue between the council and the group and we cannot accept that an event can be organised in the gardens virtually all day and any day of the week.

"The Knap Gardens are a place for relaxation and reflection and this is a misguided attempt to change the nature of the park."

A total of 500 leaflets is being distributed. The licence application covered the hours of 10am to 10pm, seven days a week. The group's supporters said they were also concerned about the policing of events, the possibility of drives being blocked, excessive noise, the necessity for extra clear-up operations and car parking problems.

The operational manager for parks and grounds maintenance at

the council, Phil Beaman, explained that in order to put on a live event, the council must apply to the local licensing authority for a temporary events notice.

He went on: "Rather than continuing to apply for a temporary notice for each event, it was our intention to submit an application for a premises licence. This would reduce costs and allow us to introduce a more efficient process for agreeing events to take place at the gardens.

"There was never any intention to change the nature of the events held at the gardens and an events programme for Knap Gardens was set out by a representative of the parks division at the last Knap Community Action Group AGM.

"However, the application for a premises licence has now been withdrawn so that further discussions can take place with the Knap Community Action Group."

Pleasure Park's future?

A Midlands fairground family, the Danter, is interested in reviving Barry Island Pleasure Park's glory days.

Henry Danter runs the Treasure Island park in the Midlands and an entertainment park on the banks of the Wye at Symond's Yat in Herefordshire.

There are plans to build apartments on the site of the Dolphin in Barry, but the Island needs a redeveloped park to lure day trippers and tourists.

Barry Island councillor, Steffan Wiliam, welcomed news

that the Danter family were interested in the site and stressed the fairground would only succeed if placed in the hands of a serious developer.

He explained: "Any redevelopment of the Barry Island Resort must include a comprehensive plan covering the whole site.

"The Danter family's many years' experience in the business and their commitment to making the fairground site viable is very exciting news for Barry.

"For too long, opportunities to regenerate the town have been squandered."

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 20**

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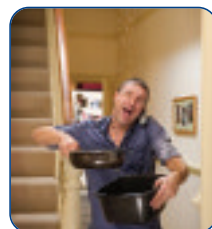
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Penarth 'Friends' group to hear about field hospitals

HAVING had three events in which those who lost their lives in World War One were remembered, the Friends of St Augustine's are ending this year of remembrance with a talk about how the men and women serving in the armed forces today are treated when wounded in Afghanistan.

Lt Col Caroline Whittaker, from the Army Medical Services Reserve, is giving a talk on field hospitals in Afghanistan on Thursday, December 11 at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Albert Road, Penarth.

Col Whittaker, who has extensive experience in this area, having undertaken operational tours to Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan, will be giving an illustrated talk based on her recent deployments to Afghanistan.

Col Whittaker is proud of the healthcare provided by the Defence Medical Services and commented: "Wherever military personnel are serving, they will receive outstanding

healthcare, and the clinical care provided in Afghanistan has been so effective that many casualties survive even the most horrific injuries."

Earlier in the year, the beautiful Roll of Honour in St Augustine's Church, on which are 207 names of men from Penarth who died in World War One, was rededicated after its restoration, and a Service of Commemoration was held marking 100 years since the outbreak of World War One.

Speaking about the forthcoming talk, Tricia Griffiths, chair of the Friends said: "It has been a year in which we have been reminded about the terrible loss and sacrifice made by so many a century ago."

"As this year draws to a close, we believe it is fitting to think about the sacrifices still being made by those who are currently serving in our armed forces, and Caroline's talk will give us real insight into what actually happens when someone is injured in the course of their duties."

Refreshments will be served and all attending will be welcome to stay for the Friends' AGM.

Plaid call for detailed plan over Barry Island future

ANY future redevelopment of the Barry Island resort must include a comprehensive plan covering the whole site. This is the call made by local Plaid Cymru councillors for the Island.

Councillors Steffan

Wiliam and Nic Hodges say that a piece meal approach will not work and would risk damaging the economic future of the town.

Coun Wiliam said: "There is a complex ownership of the resort. So it is important that there is a binding agreement on the part of the private interests."

"We understand that

Henry Danter, who runs a major funfair at Stourbridge, is interested in creating a new fairground. The Danter family have many years experience in such businesses.

"We understand that this potentially would include indoor attractions as well as thrill rides. However, there is also a potential residential aspect to the site. The redevelopment of the Dolphin corner could include flats."

Coun Hodges said: "As local Plaid councillors we are committed to the regeneration of the resort. Great care has to be taken to ensure that there is a clear coherent plan for all of the land in question. There is a great deal of public interest in this development. Residents expect it to be fully thought out."

"The Vale Council does not own this site so much is dependent on the private businesses involved. So we need to exercise detailed planning control."



Andrew Redman from Newydd, Paul and Alison Mullins and Bernie Mark from Jelu Project Services Ltd.

Thompson Street development is 'really coming together'

AN award-winning housing and retail development at Thompson Street, Barry has been named and the first lucky residents have moved in, just as the first retailer is announced.

Sixteen of the 52 affordable homes available to rent at the former Barry Magistrates Court are now complete and tenants have started moving in to the homes provided by Newydd Housing Association in partnership with Vale Council.

The remainder of the homes are currently in their final phase of completion and contractors Jelu Project Services Ltd hope to complete by February 2015.

As well as a total of 52 new homes, there will be three retail premises beneath the apartments which will provide local people with jobs and help regenerate the area.

The 6,000 sq ft retail unit has been announced as a Filco Supermarket store which will open early in the New Year. The store will employ 40 local staff.

Ian Hunt, Filco managing director, said: "We have a good reputation in the county as we have successfully served the communities in the local area for 65 years. Through this new development, which we currently have local contractors working on, we will offer customers a full convenience offering, including a large fresh food section."

"We chose to open our 12th store in this particular area because it has masses of potential, being in such a central area of the town and among a housing development."

The development has not one but three names. The six three-bedroom houses are named Y Meinciau, meaning The Benches, chosen by Jonathan Clayton from The Waterfront, Barry.

The remaining homes are split into two apartment blocks consisting of 32 two-bedroom and 14 one-bedroom apartments. These are named Ty'r Barnwr, meaning The Judge's House which is currently occupied by the first tenants to move in, and the second Ty'r Gyfraith, The Legal House.

These were named by competition winners Robyn Walsh from Dunraven Street and Kirstie King from Pendoylan Close respectively.

All three competition winners have now received a £50 prize and will be invited to the official opening ceremony for the development in the spring.

Paul and Alison Mullins were one of the first tenants to get the keys to their apartment in Ty'r Barnwr on November 24. Paul said: "We have moved from a three-bedroom property to downsized as our current home is too big for us now. My wife has difficulty getting up and downstairs. Therefore this ground floor apartment will be ideal for us."

Laura Perks, 24, was brought up in Barry but currently lives with her parents in Cardiff. She commutes daily from Cardiff to Barry to work at Holton Primary School but has now had the keys to her very own apartment.

She said: "I can't wait to move back to Barry. I will be able to walk to work from here instead of the long commute I currently have. I was brought up in Barry and look forward to being part of the community once more. It is so expensive to rent privately, so renting from Newydd means I can afford my own home for the first time."

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd Housing Association said: "This housing development really is coming together, Ty'r Barnwr is now complete and tenants are starting to settle in. It is a testament to the hard work of our employees, the contractor, Jelu Project Services Ltd and the excellent partnership between Newydd, the Vale Council and Welsh Government."

"The community benefits from this prestigious development are huge and we hope that it will significantly help the regeneration of the area. We wish all our tenants many years of happiness in their new homes."

In partnership with the Vale Council, Newydd Housing Association is also currently building 20 apartments at the former Marine Hotel in Barry Island and will shortly commence work on 23 new homes in St Athan.

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New 20mph speed limit on a dangerous bend in Dinas

A 20-mile-an-hour speed limit is to be applied at the dangerous bend on Murch Road, between the Tesco junction and Camms Corner.

The scheme will involve about 300 yards of the Murch Road being restricted to a 20 mph

limit. There will be four sets of speed cushions. A flat top raised section will be installed to assist safer pedestrian crossing. The area has been the topic of concern to villagers in Dinas Powys for some years.

Local residents and Plaid councillor Vale Hartrey led a demonstration of

residents recently to keep the pressure up on the Vale Council to take action.

She said: "The strength of feel among locals was very impressive. We were also grateful for the support of many community and county councillors at the protest, including John Fanshaw, Janie Jones, Margaret Randall and Chris Franks"

Coun Keith Hatton said: "We appreciate the work of the visible services department. This scheme was excluded by the Government's rules for major sources of safety schemes. So alternative funds had to be found."

"Over 2,600 vehicles per day travel along this length of road many at inappropriate speed. With the number of pupils and pensioners in the neighbourhood the dangers are obvious."

Coun Chris Franks added: "This is a dreadful stretch of road with very poor viability for both pedestrians and drivers. This poses a serious risk to people."

PUMPHOUSE IS SET FOR A MAKEOVER!

REGENERATION of the grade II listed hydraulic pumphouse building on Barry Waterfront is set to go ahead, following planning permission for 15 live/work units, high quality restaurant, and leisure units.

A new paved and landscaped plaza will provide outdoor seating areas and there will be onsite parking.

Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil

Moore, commented: "I very much welcome this news which follows a great deal of hard work by the council, Welsh Government and DS Properties."

"The Hydraulic Pumphouse is an important part of Barry and Wales' industrial and maritime heritage."

"This opportunity to save it for future generations is something we can all be justifiably proud of."

Police appeal after attempted robbery

DETECTIVES in Barry are appealing for information after an attempted robbery in the town.

It occurred around 9.10pm on Wednesday, December 3, just off Winston Road, Barry.

A 15-year-old teenage boy was walking home from Whitwell Road to Winston Road when he was approached by a man who demanded money. When the boy told the man he didn't have any, the suspect struck him.

The victim suffered a cut hand and bruising to his face.

Detective Inspector Sue Sidford said: "We would urge anyone who was

in the area at the time and may have witnessed the incident, or can help to identify the man responsible, to come forward, as they may have vital information which could help our enquiries."

Anyone who can assist with the investigation is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400452027.

Alternatively Crimestoppers can be called, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111; or contacted via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information



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Santa is returning to Dinas Powys!

FOLLOWING the successful Dickensian fayre held last Friday (December 5) in the village square, Dinas Powys, the Rotary Club, who organise the event, have managed to persuade Santa to return for two special, extra visits this weekend.

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto at the rear of the Three Horse Shoes public house in Dinas Powys on **Saturday, December 13 and Sunday December 14 between 4pm and**

6pm, and all children are welcome.

President Colin and the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys thank all those who supported the Dickensian fayre, local businesses, charities, clubs, etc, with an amazing array of stalls and attractions, and with a special thank you to the Three Horse Shoes public house.

A video of the event can be viewed on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwhY-wEA7UB.

The club will be organising the event again in December 2015! TS



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Saturday 13th December
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The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, festive live music, street entertainers and Christmas play workshops and watch as artist Jon Hicks creates original and seasonal 6ft tall paintings of Santa and snowy landscapes.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

KING SQUARE, BARRY

Saturday 13th December
10am to 4pm

Barry is hosting its first Christmas Market on King Square.

Get yourself in the festive spirit and purchase some unique arts and crafts from local producers.



For further details on all events please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com or follow @visitthevale

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Community order for Barry man (24) with indecent photos

A 24-YEAR-OLD haulage company employee has been sentenced to a community order for three years, for a series of offences involving indecent pictures.

Luke Stanley, who had no previous convictions, of Lowden Terrace, Barry, admitted four charges involving the distribution and possession of indecent pictures of children.

At an earlier trial, he was found guilty of inciting a teenage girl to engage in sexual activity.

Prosecutor David Elias said Stanley was found to have 128 indecent pictures at Category C, the lowest, one at Category A and three at Category B.

Mr Elias said that on November 23 last year, the police went to an address in Sully, where Stanley was then living and seized his laptop computer.

They had gone to the premises following

information from an ex-partner.

The girls featured on the images were aged 10 to 16, he said.

Stanley later said he was sexually attracted to girls aged 14 to 16.

His barrister, Matthew Roberts, said that regarding the incitement charge, Stanley had sent the girl 844 text messages.

He pointed out that Stanley had always admitted the indecent image aspect of the case.

"Sadly, he has a dysfunctional view of sexual matters," said Mr Roberts.

He urged a community sentence be passed. Prison, he added, would be exceptionally difficult and he would lose his employment.

Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones said: "This is an almost classic case of someone progressing from viewing photographs to putting into practice what was viewed."

He said every girl who appeared in the photograph was a person being abused.

He said the victim in the incitement case was a very sensible person.

She knew Stanley's age and he knew her age.

"Many text messages were sent and they became more and more extreme," said the Judge.

Had the opportunity occurred, he said, Stanley would have engaged in sexual intercourse.

"You pose, frankly, a very difficult problem to a sentencing judge," he said.

On the one hand, he said, his behaviour had been appalling. He pointed out that Stanley was well qualified, intelligent and could have gone to university.

"You are obviously naive in sexual matters, and limited in your experience, despite your age," he said.

A pre-sentence report, added the judge, stated that Stanley was a man who needed assistance and guidance in his heterosexual matters.

The community order involved supervision for three years, and he was also ordered to participate in a sex offender programme for three years.

Said the Judge: "Let me make it clear, if you do not comply with these orders, you will be back in this court and if I am sitting, you will go straight into custody."

Stanley was banned from working with children for life, ordered to register as a sex offender for five years and he was also made subject to a sex offender prevention order for five years.

Barry man 'unlucky to be arrested'

A CALL centre worker who lashed out with a pole when two men burst into his home, has been given a conditional discharge for a year at Cardiff Crown Court.

Damien Lambert (34) of Barry Road, Barry, had been convicted by Cardiff Magistrates of possessing an offensive weapon and been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Timothy Naylor said Lambert was at home with his partner when two men

forced their way into his premises. He chased them down the street and while calling the police, lashed out at them with a pole.

Lambert's counsel, Meirion Davies, said: "Two men actually forced their way into his flat. He was unlucky to be arrested and he should have been dealt with by a caution."

Judge Tom Crowther said the men who had burst into his home were either drunk or drugged.

He said that Lambert was ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and was unlucky to be arrested.

Learning how the varroa mite is destroying the British bee population...

HAROLD WILLIAMS was the speaker at last week's Barry Men's Forum.

He works at Fonmon Castle as the gamekeeper and became interested in beekeeping as part of his duties. He has been responsible for the apiaries for 14 years.

He explained in great detail the life cycle of the bees and the threat of 'Varroa mites' destroying the British bee population.

A healthy hive has a population of between 60,000 and 100,000 bees. They consist of only one Queen bee, and the rest are divided up into the female worker bees, the female nursing bees and the male drone bees.

Their life span is only about six weeks. The first three weeks they spend caring for the upkeep of the hive.

To perpetuate the population of the hive the queen lays 2,000 eggs a day. She can live for three to four years.

The bees are workaholics and gather pollen and honey from dawn to dusk to ensure the hive is fully stocked up with honey to survive throughout the winter period.

This could be as much as 40lbs to 50lbs of honey. The beekeepers manipulate the bees by removing some of the honey.

They ensure that there is always enough honey for the hive to survive the winter months.

When the bees locate a good source of pollen or honey they return to the hive and pass on the location by communicating via a complicated gyrating dance routine.

This has been studied, and the number and direction of the waggles tell the bees the direction and distance from the angle of the sun, to the location of the pollen.

The bees can fly up to six miles foraging for pollen. They are attracted to the colours yellow and green.

The varroa mite is an external parasite. It attaches itself to the body of the bee to invade the hive then it breeds within the colony by laying eggs within the capped brood and feeding off the larva, while it is metamorphosing into a bee.

The mite is a known disease vector. Many of these bees are then born without legs or wings.

The hives have to be treated with a special cream that damages the mite's mouth so it cannot attach to the bees or bite the larva.

By fitting a fine mesh screen in the bottom of the hive and a removable

drawer in the base, the mites fall through and can then be destroyed when the drawer is removed, without causing harm to the bees in the hive.

On Thursday, December 18 Clive Sims will be performing a musical recital on 'The History of Christmas Musical Melodies'.

The forum meets at Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, every Thursday morning at 10.15am. New members are very welcome.

MC

Bike marking to beat thieves

Barry Police, in conjunction with British Transport Police are inviting residents to attend a cycle marking and security information session on Wednesday, December 17 at the Waterfront Retail Park, outside Halfords.

PC Nicola Owen explained: "We're inviting members of the public to come along with their bikes and scooters so we can mark them, with the aim that if these are stolen or lost, it will be easier to trace the owner."

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'Mini budget proves measures are making a difference...'

LAST week's mini budget from the Chancellor has gone down exceptionally well here in the Vale on several counts.

First and foremost, it confirmed that the economy is recovering well – the fastest of the major world economies; and that unemployment is predicted to fall further.

Claimant count unemployment across Barry and the Vale is a little over 3 per cent and further reductions will help local residents even more.

One of the key announcements was a reform to the tax paid when purchasing or moving property – stamp duty. This is a significant boost to many people looking to buy their first home or hoping to move – potentially saving thousands of pounds. Properties around £1 million or higher will pay more.

It was Small Business Saturday last week and as I popped into shops along the various 'High Streets' across the Vale, I called into local estate agents to hear their views. They told me of the flurry of additional activity they had seen following the Chancellor's statement.

This is just the sort of action that can make a major difference to people working all hours to get on the housing ladder, or those looking to upsize, possibly as a result of a growing family.

The other major announcement is the plan to reform business rates. This is something that small shops on the



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

High Street and larger traditional businesses have been calling for.

It is often cited as the reason that many small businesses are squeezed out of existence. This offers the prospects of larger chains and multinationals paying their fair share so that the pressure can be taken off local businesses.

Of course, this will take time to implement so the business rates discount of £1,500 that was announced for small shops and cafes will be welcome relief.

Other announcements included a further increase to the personal tax allowance to £10,600 from April. This means that the average worker will be

£800 better off when all personal allowance increases have been taken into account. We are now getting closer to all full time employees on the minimum wage tax being able to earn all their salary tax-free.

Taking children up to 12 years of age out of air passenger duty will also help families – and support Cardiff Airport in the process. A family with two children will save £142 on a long haul flights and £26 on shorter distances. The year after, this will increase to children up to age 16, helping even more families.

One new tax that was welcomed by all parties was the tax that the press have called the 'Google Tax'. This is a tax aimed at firms that divert profits to other countries in an effort to avoid paying tax here.

It is only right that such companies, be they national coffee chains or internet giants, pay their fair share. Increases in public spending also means that an additional £123m will be passed to the Welsh Government. I hope that this will be spent on the NHS.

In considering the harrowing cancer cases that have been reported in this newspaper recently, establishing a Cancer Drugs Fund here in Wales, as already exists in England, would be a good start.

All in all, the mini budget was evidence that the difficult decisions over recent years are having a positive impact on the future. Clearly, there is much more that needs to be done; the most important being to secure the recovery.

Imogen (aged 5) is festive card winner



Imogen's winning design.

A FIRST year pupil from All Saints Primary has won a competition to design the Christmas card for Vale MP Alun Cairns.

He visited the Barry school to inform five-year-old Imogen Hadley that she had beaten off a number of entrants to win the competition.



Imogen Hadley with Alun Cairns at All Saints Primary School.

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You can take advantage of great Vale walks this festive period!

TEN new walks around the Vale have been launched by Creative Rural Communities in time for Christmas.

Entitled Vale Trails, the series of five coastal and five inland walks have been developed by Creative Rural Communities, the rural regeneration arm of the Vale Council, in conjunction with Vale of Glamorgan rambblers and Valeways.

Leaflets of each of the 10 walks, which include an easy and more challenging route for differing walking abilities, places of interest, and even the number of calories burned, will shortly be available to download online at www.visitthevale.com and pick up at 50 tourism information stands across the area.

A competition to win £200 to spend online at outdoor clothing brand Skogstad UK will also run via Twitter @valetrails.

Phil Chappell, principal rural

regeneration officer at Vale Council, said: "Walking in the Vale of Glamorgan combines a fascinating 60 km stretch of the Wales Coast Path with the picturesque, historic beauty of inland Vale.

"We've got walks to suit everyone, whether it's short fun walks that children will love; leisurely strolls for people new to walking; or longer walks for those that want a good leg-stretch over the Christmas break.

"The festive period is notoriously a time of over-indulgences so we hope our 10 Vale Trails will stimulate people to take a short stroll to burn off the Christmas dinner or a heartier ramble to kick-start their new year's fitness resolutions."

Vale Trails is funded by the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Gladstone Primary School celebrate Christmas with their Nativity play!



CHRISTMAS celebrations are now well under way at Gladstone Primary starting with the Foundation Phase Christmas Nativity last week.

Tickets were in high demand, resulting in the children giving not just one but three performances, each time to a full house, in front of proud parents and grandparents.

The children sang beautifully, using music from familiar nursery rhymes with Christmas lyrics, while the narrators told the story of Christmas.



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Young harpist joins children's NCO orchestra

COWBRIDGE pupil Linnea Stenlund-Roderick is to play with one of the world's finest children's orchestras, the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain (NCO).

Linnea, who has played the harp for only five years, auditioned for the NCO in October and has been selected to play with the Main Orchestra 2015.

A pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, she spends many hours a day practicing music and each Saturday attends the Junior Conservatoire programme at the Royal



Welsh College and Drama. Linnea is taught harp by Eluned Pierce and is "thrilled" about taking up her place with the Orchestra.

"I am looking forward to taking up my place with the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain."

"It is amazing working together to achieve a goal to create beautiful music," she said.

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Menter Bro Morgannwg establishes new partnership with The Glamorgan GEM

MENTER Bro Morgannwg has received a grant of £10,000 from the Welsh Government's Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 Fund, and part of this grant will go towards developing the element of promoting and raising awareness of the Welsh language across the county through the digital and print platforms, by ensuring that there is Welsh language content in the local press.

The Glamorgan GEM is the Vale's biggest community paper, with 46,000 copies distributed every week to homes, workplaces and public places round the county, with an electronic version also available on its website.

Menter Bro Morgannwg is extremely pleased to be developing this new partnership with the Glamorgan GEM, and will co-ordinate and publish a Welsh language page in the newspaper once a

month, starting from January 8, 2015.

We are now, therefore, looking for an editorial team – so if you have any interesting ideas, or would like to contribute to this monthly page, please get in touch!

Contact fflion@menterbromorgannwg.org, 029 20689888; @MIBroMorgannwg; Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg.

Menter Bro Morgannwg yn sefydlu partneriaeth newydd gyda'r Glamorgan GEM

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg wedi derbyn grant o £10,000 o Gronfa Bwrw Mlaen 2014-15 Llywodraeth Cymru, ac mae rhan o'r grant hwnnw i fynd tuag at datblygu'r elfen o hyrwyddo a chodi ymwybyddiaeth o'r Gymraeg ar draws y

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Y Glamorgan GEM yw papur cymunedol mwyaf Bro Morgannwg, gyda 46,000 o gopiau o'r papur yn cael eu dosbarthu i gartrefi, gweithlefydd a manau cyhoeddus ar draws y Sir yn wythnosol, a chopi electronig hefyd ar gael i'w ddarllen ar eu gwefan.

Mae Menter Bro Morgannwg yn falch iawn i ddatblygu partneriaeth o'r newydd gyda'r Glamorgan GEM, ac fe fydd y Fenter yn cydlynw a'n cyhoeddi tudalen Gymraeg yn y papur yn fisol, gan ddechrau ar Ionawr 8fed 2015.

Rydyn ni'n chwilio nawr am dim golygyddol – felly os oes gennych chi syniadau am etemau diddorol, neu os hoffech chi gyfrannu at y tudalen misol hon, cysylltwch â ni!

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'Changing energy suppliers can be like banging your head against a brick wall'

MARKETS work best when they are properly supervised, managed and regulated.

If any aspect is ignored it can lead to chaos and a poor deal for the public.

The banks are a classic example. Poor regulation led to taxpayers having to bail them out and bear the burden for years to come.

What of the energy market in which price rises seem to take place with monotonous regularity? The theory is that competition between companies will drive down charges.

That relies on people being able to compare deals and switch supplier.

A few weeks ago I looked into the energy market and subscribed to 'The Big Deal' email which

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

champions 'collective switching'.

It negotiates on behalf of thousands of people to get cheaper energy tariffs than those featured on comparison sites.

The Big Deal did its job and came up with a potential saving of around £250 a year – worth the effort of switching.

I wanted to move from E.ON to 'extraenergy', so I contacted the latter to set the wheels in motion.

After 40 minutes on the phone to one of their representatives I thought I was almost there. Then they needed the 'MPR' – meter point reference number. I didn't have that on any paperwork, so I had to ring E.ON to get the number.

Extraenergy said they would ring me back on Saturday morning after 10.30am to finish the switch. No call came and I was busy that day so I re-contacted them the following Thursday, and was put through to customer services.

They could not find a record of the details I had left the previous Thursday. When I did quote the MPR, they told me it didn't match my address. It related to a 'Plot 8' in Barry.

I explained that 'Plot 8' was where my house had been built 11 years previously. The woman was surprised the MPR had not been updated and matched to my address – something I thought had been done years earlier!

She advised me that only E.ON could match the MPR with my address and to go back to them. At this point I began to feel like a tennis ball in the Wimbledon final.

Information sought on Mametz Wood

July 2016 sees the centenary of the attack at Mametz Wood on the Somme by battalions of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, South Wales Borderers and the Welsh Regiment.

I am writing a new book on the subject and am seeking previously unpublished photographs of the soldiers who took part in this momentous battle, and any stories associated with their participation, for inclusion in my book.

If your readers have any such material I can be contacted via email: ninian27@btinternet.com or by telephone 07708 255295.

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Off I went to E.ON – did I mention that by now the deadline on my deal had expired? – and they said they could do this but it may take a few weeks.

I am currently not in a fixed E.ON tariff which means I am able to switch without a penalty – but in the meantime I am on a higher charge. So at the moment for me it's a lose-lose situation.

No doubt there are many people who switch with one phone call and have no problems, but conversely, there are probably others, like me, who feel that the process of switching is like banging your head against a brick wall.

Remember where this saga started? The notion that prices are driven down by competition. What if there are obstacles to people switching and not enough people can change supplier?

Prices continue to go up.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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'Please support our animal charities this Christmas!'

THE GEM is supporting animal welfare charities this winter and people can drop their gifts into our head office at Graig House, 53, E a s t g a t e , Cowbridge, and they will be passed on.

Among the charities The GEM wants to help is Maesteg Animal Welfare founded in 1985.

Jan Brady of Maesteg Animal Welfare, which does a huge amount of local work in the welfare of cats and dogs, explained that the winter months are a pressing time for local volunteers.

'At this time of year, many more cats come in to us out of the cold. We need donations of food and good quality bedding.'

Among other charities to benefit will be UK German Shepherd Rescue, based in Wales, Greyhound Rescue Wales, Heart Hounds, Animals in Mind, Many Tears, Lizzie's Barn Animals and Greenacres.

The following items are helpful: cat and dog food (complete bags or tins) dog beds (only good quality), dog and cat collars, bleach, pine disinfectant, mops, buckets, blue rolls, disposable gloves, heavy duty bin bags, hard brushes, dog toys, treats and biscuits, combs and brushes, towels, dog flea treatment and shampoos, and Drontal wormer tablets.

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THE MAN DUBBED 'PICASSO OF THE GARW VALLEY' REALISES HIS DREAM

A FORMER miner who Max Boyce once dubbed 'The Picasso of the Garw Valley', realised his personal dream when he held an exhibition of his work at the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall last week.

Gordon Farmer (75) turned to 'pencil portraiture' late in life as a means of keeping his mind off the pain caused by injuries inflicted in an industrial accident.

His exhibition - 'Face to Face' - which ran over two days, November 27 and 28, was a snapshot of Welsh culture over the last 50 years.

Anthony Hopkins, Ray Gravell, JPR, Stanley Baker, Ruth Jones, Shane Williams, Rob Brydon and Tom Jones, jostled with evocative sketches of miners working in cramped tunnels and tight to the coalface.

For good measure, Gordon also displayed some familiar non-Welsh stars like Michael Caine, Johnny Cash and Michael Jackson, along with his cherished collection of animal portraits.

More pupils at school in Vale

ATTENDANCE levels at schools across the Vale increased last year.

For the 2013/14 school year, attendance in primary and special schools was 95.3 per cent and in secondary schools it was 94.2 per cent. For primary schools this was an increase of 1.1 per cent and for secondary schools it was an increase of 0.9 per cent.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, commented: "I am delighted to see improved attendance at

so many schools in the Vale. We know that children who attend school regularly get better results. I am grateful to all the parents who make sure their children get to school on time every day."

Jennifer Hill, director of learning and skills, added: "These figures mean that altogether children were in school in the Vale for an extra 30,000 days last year. Schools have worked hard to spread the message that good attendance is important, and it's really working."

It is hardly surprising that being brought up in the spectacular Garw Valley, north of Bridgend, Gordon has an affinity with mining, but he had first hand experience of the colliery himself.

"I was born at Bryn Cottages, Pontyrhyl, and I've lived in the Garw Valley all my life.

"When I left school, I did a milk round for a couple of weeks and then went down the Ffaldau Colliery.

"I was about 16 and cutting the coal at the face and shovelling it onto the conveyor belt. I also helped putting up the pit props.

"In those days you had a task to complete and if you didn't manage it, you didn't get paid."

The most difficult time for him was when he was up in the early hours of the morning looking after his daughter, then having to do a shift at the mine.

"I wasn't getting the sleep and it started wearing me down. I had a mate called Mervyn who helped me through it. We looked after each other."

Gordon stayed for 12 years - and has all the time in the world for men who managed a lifetime's labour down the mine. It was so hard, I was lucky. A manager tipped me the wink and said: 'Get out while you can'. He gave me a reference and I went to work for a company preparing the metal for wheelchairs."

He became involved in the Labour movement and took on the role of convenor and wasn't shy to call for industrial action if he thought it was justified. When Norman Tebbit visited the company, the personnel officer - ex-Army! - warned Gordon: "I'm expecting you to behave, Gordon!"

"I told Norman Tebbit that yes, production had to get done, but I was proud of being a worker and

standing up for their rights."

Gordon said he has become disillusioned with modern politics and parties because of the loss of employment rights in recent years.

He went on to work as a security guard in local quarries, but in 1999 his life changed forever.

"It was a really blowy day and a gust of wind lifted a huge metal sign which hit me from behind. I had a badly injured right leg - they thought I would lose it, but they managed to save it.

"I had problems with my back and neck, too. It really shook my body up."

Gordon was forced to retire and confront the dilemma of what he was going to do with the rest of his life. The consolation came in the form of pencil and paper. He found that immersion in his new craft kept his mind off the pain caused by his injuries.

"I bought a book on drawing and I practised and practised. I'd concentrate on one feature at a time - drawing is sometimes like a jigsaw.

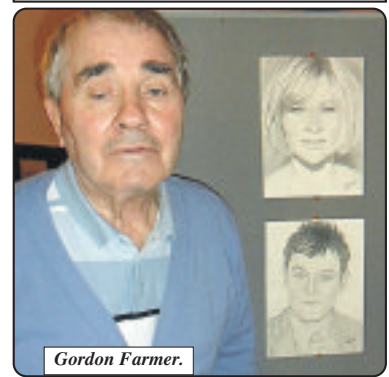
"I must have filled a dozen black bags with screwed-up paper until I felt I was making progress."

Over the years, his reputation as a local artist has grown and he was thrilled when he had the opportunity to present Max Boyce with a portrait.

"He shook my hand and said: 'You're the Picasso of the Garw Valley!'"

Although Gordon is in his mid-seventies and not in the best of health, his enthusiasm knows no limits. He's been a big fan of the TV show 'Gavin and Stacey', doing portraits of all the stars, and would one day like to take his exhibition to the show's spiritual home in Barry.

Report by TIM CHAPMAN



Gordon Farmer.



Ysgol Sant Baruc brings Macbeth to life

ON November 19, year-6 performance of an abridged especially complimented the

from Ysgol Sant Baruc took version of the timeless play. female Macbeth, Celyn Evans and

to the stage of the Sherman The production was part of the three witches, Zak Baker, Ffion

Theatre Cymru to perform Shakespeare Schools Festival Short and Ellie Davies, for their

Macbeth, one of children to the genius of characterisation of the important

Shakespeare's best-loved children to the genius of Shakespeare and the magic of live roles.

plays. The host for the evening was specifically congratulated the children on their confidence and

After weeks of rehearsal and extremely impressed with the children's performance and the portrayal of Shakespeare's work.

preparation, the pupils wowed the audience with an extraordinary school's take on the play. He

FW

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Health board review after kidney organ donation tragedies

AN inquest into the deaths of two University Hospital of Wales patients who died following a transplant has concluded with the coroner issuing a narrative verdict.

Adam Cairns, chief executive at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "On behalf of everyone at Cardiff and Vale UHB we would like to send our sincerest sympathies to the families affected by this tragedy."

Darren Hughes, 42, from Bridgend, and Robert Stuart, 67, from Caerphilly died because their kidneys were infected with a parasitic worm.

The families of Mr Hughes and Mr Stuart were reported to be devastated and shocked by what had caused their loved-ones' deaths.

Mr Cairns went on: "This was a terrible incident, the like of which, has never been reported before. The transplants were carried out with the best of intentions, but ended in the tragic death of two patients. We are very sorry for their loss."

"Nothing we can say today will be able to undo what has happened, or ease the pain and loss the family and friends of these patients are feeling. We can, however, do all we can to learn from this tragedy and share what we found for the benefit of the whole transplant community, here or anywhere else in the transplant system."

"That is why the health board quickly

concluded it should commission Professor Chris Watson, a leading figure in transplantation, to carry out a full and vigorous independent review of what happened and what could be done to avoid it happening again.

"The health board has fully accepted and acted upon all the recommendations put forward in that report. It has led to important changes and improvements in our service primarily around how we discuss transplant and the associated risk with patients and relatives as part of a detailed conversation about the right option for them."

"We are also fully committed to working with NHS Blood and Transplant and other colleagues in the transplant service, here in the UK and internationally, to share the important findings from this unique incident."

"It is important to remember that this is a first of its kind tragic incident and that nothing like this has happened at the unit or anywhere else before."

"We are confident that the unit itself is safe and providing high quality care and are reassured by the results that show it has significantly higher than average survival rates."

"The unit has saved and enhanced thousands of lives through its work and it is the hope of everyone at the unit, the health board, the families involved and all those

working in transplantation that this unique tragic case does not jeopardise that life saving work."

Argiris Asderakis, consultant surgeon at the Cardiff Transplant Unit, said: "I am very sorry that two people have lost their lives and the pain and sadness that the families continue to cope with. I take pride in my many years working in transplantation and the people and families whose lives have been helped by the Cardiff Transplant Unit. Their words have been a great support and I am very grateful to them."

"Kidney transplantation is performed to prolong the lives of patients who suffer from renal failure. Although nobody could have anticipated this tragedy, it will live with me and I am deeply sorry for what happened."

Usman Khalid, clinical research fellow in transplant surgery, said: "I know that nothing I can say will help the families and I am genuinely sorry for what they have had to endure over the last 12 months."

"I believe that I performed my duties in good faith, to the best of my ability and within the limits of my knowledge. I believe that I had a good rapport with both patients and I was very fond of them."

"Everyone at the unit has the best interests of our patients in mind in everything we do. I feel we did all we could for both patients and we are all truly sorry

Supper concert full house for English Speaking Union

Report by Derek Morgan: photos by Heather March.

ONCE again, the Christmas concert and supper at Howell's School was a must attend for members of the south Wales branch of the English-Speaking Union, with a full house to delight in the carols led by the senior school choir.

Virtuoso violin and vocal solos from Katherine Jenkins and Sara-Jane Waters were complemented by a spirited rendering by the performing arts group of 'Let it Go' from Frozen.

The closing performance of the senior choir and guests rejoicing in 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' was worthy of choir master Gareth Malone.

Following a delectable supper provided by Sian Whitfield, members were literally reduced to tears of laughter listening to guest speaker Paul Marshall, who, in jocular terms, well maintained the standards of past speakers and members Wyn Calvin and Roy Noble.

Branch president Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards rounded off a memorable evening by expressing good wishes to all members for Christmas and the New Year.

Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of MI6, will be the next lunchtime speaker on March 19, 2015. Details from Derek Morgan, branch chairman on 01656-669129 or e-mail dwcaym@googlemail.com.



Derek Morgan, Dr Peter Beck, Lyn Beck and Dr Shang Ng.



Gerry Price-Stephens, Carole Kenefick, Dr Ian Campbell.



Dr Ian Campbell, Penny Jones and John Cory.



Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Peter Marshall, Roy Noble and Derek Morgan.

'Don't rush into a merger' – warning

THE Vale Council shouldn't rush into a merger with Bridgend, a Plaid councillor warned this week.

It followed a recent Vale cabinet meeting where it was agreed to ask the Welsh Government to begin talks on a voluntary merger between the two councils.

Coun Ian Johnson said that the tone and implications of the meeting were very different to those when the idea was initially presented to councillors in September, and said that pressure had been put on the Vale Council cabinet from the Welsh Government.

He added that neither the Welsh Government nor the Vale of Glamorgan had any mandate from the people of Wales or the Vale to make such changes – and that they should at least include government re-

organisation in their next manifestos rather than pushing ahead.

"Cabinet members wanted to talk about our strong links with Bridgend, but seemed to ignore the fact that the Bridgend county goes much further north – to Maesteg and Caerau, than just the town itself. These are areas which have very little in common with Barry and the Vale."

"While some people in the western Vale get their health treatment, shop and work in Bridgend, many, many more get their health treatment, shop and work in Cardiff."

"The reality, though, is that the Vale of Glamorgan has substantial reserves and is quite capable of organising its own affairs without a merger."

"We shouldn't be rushing into any decisions about mergers that we may regret later."

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at the Bridgend Rehoming Centre

Shane's owner died ...NOW HE DREAMS OF A LOVING HOME



SHANE is a 10-year-old Rough Collie who has found himself here with us after his owner sadly died.

We don't see many Rough Collies in rescue, so we are hoping to find a devoted fan who can give him a comfortable home in his old age.

He is a very sweet boy, but due to his age, does have a few complications.

Having been used to home comforts for such a long time, he is currently very confused

and depressed in kennels. Shane mixes well with other dogs and could live with a quiet dog.

He will need a quiet, adult-only home, with owners who will be patient with him and give him time to settle.

If you can offer Shane the loving home he deserves, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend; we are open 12pm-4pm every day, except Monday.

LINDA FEAGAN, Dogs Trust Bridgend

Barry U3A news

A LIVELY discussion on individual family Christmas customs at Barry U3A followed a fascinating talk on links between Roman Saturnalia and Christmas, at its December meeting.

On December 4, 41 members attended the annual Christmas lunch at Barry College.

Sincere thanks to all at the college and we hope to see you again when the monthly lunch club pays a return visit on January 16.

The committee of Barry U3A would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; the next meeting will take place on Monday, January 5.

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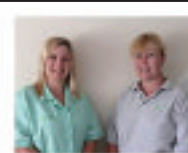
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Out and About with The GEM

SCREEN TALK PICKS ITS WAY THROUGH THE FILMS THAT MATTERED IN 2014...

PICKING your favourite of anything is never easy, especially when you have to narrow down a whole year's worth of cinema into a bite-size chunk.

Worth a mention in dispatches are *20 Feet From Stardom*, a documentary about the lives of backing singers, Jon Favreau's delightful *Chef*, Jack O'Connell's star-making double punch of *Sturged Up* and '71, David Fincher's *Gone Girl*, Spike Jonze's *Her*, the joyously wonderful *Paddington*, *22 Jump Street*'s

deconstruction of sequels and *The LEGO Movie*'s awesome-ness.

In 10th place is *Dawn of the Planet of Apes*, a blockbuster sequel that surprised many by exceeding the good work of its progenitor; with Andy Serkis and Toby Kebbel's motion-captured performances reigning supreme, and director Matt Reeves delivering the scale, it was an impressive effort all round.

Ninth spot on the list goes to *Dallas Buyers Club*, the film that earned both Matthew McConaughey (who may be making another appearance further down this list) and

Jared Leto the male acting awards at this year's Oscars; but beyond the excellent performances was a heartfelt and moving story that pulled no punches.

Number 8 is taken up by *Blue Ruin*, Jeremy Saulnier's noir-inflected tale of a man taking revenge on a family responsible for the murder of his parents. Gritty and gripping, it was anchored by a mesmerising lead turn from Macon Blair.

The Grand Budapest Hotel is **number seven** on the list, Wes Anderson's multi-layered war-set comedy/drama one of the best works the writer/director has produced, with an all-star ensemble cast, led by Ralph Fiennes' wondrously magnificent Gustav H,

a pleasure to watch. Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* finds itself at **number six**, a film that managed to both visually stun and push your synapses, as his mix of relativity and space travel, anchored by humanity's need to save themselves, wowed audiences. While *2001* was an obvious touchstone, *Close Encounters...* was another key influence, the film his most Spielberg-ian.

Into the top five, and *What We Do In The Shadows* hovers into view, Jemaine Clement and Taika Waititi's mockumentary of vampires living in New Zealand one of the funniest films of the year, its idiosyncratic approach masking plenty of heart and emotion.

The Guardians of



by
GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
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the Galaxy are in **fourth place**; billed as Marvel's biggest gamble, it has ended up being one of Marvel's biggest hits, thanks in no small part to the achievements of director James Gunn, whose lack of

background in big budget fare made him the perfect person to bring the film to screen, the film having a unique tone and sense of style.

With Chris Pratt's breakthrough performance impressing, and the ability to carve a beautiful relationship between a CGI racoon and a CGI tree who says only three words, *Guardians...* was a throwback to the blockbusters of yore, where story and characters mattered as much as the action.

Bronze medal time, and this is awarded to the Coen brothers' *Inside Llewyn Davis*, a film that was strangely snubbed come awards time, but ranks as one of the brothers' best films, as well as having (along with *Guardians of the Galaxy* and

Chef) one of the best soundtracks of 2014.

Oscar Isaac's sad sack lead performance as the titular singer/songwriter, eking a living and snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, was beautifully realised, the film a reminder of just how incredibly talented the Coen brothers are.

So close, yet so far, **second spot** on the list is awarded to *Nightcrawler*, Dan Gilroy's story focusing on the life of Lou Bloom, who takes up ambulance chasing for a TV news station with increasingly darker motives. A comment on the nature of 24-hour news, the American dream and how far people will go to attain it, the film was intense and darkly comedic, led superbly by Jake Gyllenhaal's

incredible lead performance.

Top spot of 2014 goes to Martin Scorsese's incendiary *The Wolf of Wall Street*, the true-life story of Jordan Belfort, who went from struggling to make ends meet to being a multi-millionaire thanks to becoming a Wall Street trader in the 1980s.

Essayed with no little aplomb by Leonardo DiCaprio, Belfort's story, egregious enough already, was given an extra sheen of excess by Scorsese, who hasn't been this fired up and hungry in years, the film both a celebration of hedonism and success, and a cautionary tale of how you can have everything and nothing at the same time.

Students' charity sale at craft fair

A GROUP of art students from Cardiff and Vale College sold hand-made Christmas decorations at a gift craft fair in Penarth

Pier Pavilion recently.

All money raised was split between Llandough Hospital's Breast Care Unit and 'Stepping Stone' at Velindre.

Selling a range of snow globes, porcelain and ceramic decorations, and festive wreaths, the students raised £416.50.

People were also donating into charity pots and these have yet to be counted.

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What's on, and where in your area...

Lib Dem

surgery
THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding a local advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, December 12), when he will be in Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm.

Colwinston cinema
ON Saturday (December 13), Colwinston cinema will be screening *The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared* in Colwinston village hall.

Based on the internationally best-selling novel by Jonas Jonasson, a 100-year-old man decides it's not too late to start over and begins his hilarious romp involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, incompetent police and an elephant! Tickets are £6 on the door, or £4.50 in advance from *The Sycamore Tree Inn*, Colwinston.

Doors open at 7pm, with screening at 8pm.

Carols by Candlelight
ON Sunday (December 14), Cowbridge United Free Church will be welcoming the newly-founded Newport Boys' and Newport

Girls' choirs to Cowbridge, with soloist Oliver Barton, who sang in St Paul's Cathedral for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

There will also be a guest soprano and fun participation by the congregation from 5pm. The collection this year is for the Alzheimer's Society, which supports people with dementia and their families.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies after the service. Doors open at 4.40pm.

Caerau festive fayre
BRIDGEND
Communities First will hold a free Christmas fayre and market at St Cyndeyn Church, Caerau, on Tuesday, December 16 from 11.30am to 4pm.

There are free taster workshops on making Christmas wreaths, stocking decorations and flower arranging, a children's storyteller, Christmas stalls selling cards, decorations, jewellery, candles and festive treats and live entertainment with Caerau Primary School Choir.

A free soup lunch is also provided, giving the public a chance to have a say on training and learning needs in the community.

To book a free place, contact Andrew Collins on 01656 754894, text 07929 049645, or email Andrew.Collins@bridge

nd.gov.uk

Archbishop to lead services
THE Archbishop of Wales, Rev Barry Morgan, will lead the morning services at the churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, in Barry on Sunday, December 21.

It is the last Sunday of the season of Advent, the preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the services will include a number of Advent hymns.

The Archbishop will lead services of Holy Communion and preach sermons at both churches, assisted by the Rector of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan, Father Robert Parrish.

The service in the ancient church of Merthyr Dyfan, which is approached down Merthyr Dyfan Lane, begins at 8.45am and at St Paul's – the first Anglican church built for the new town of Barry – which is in St Paul's Avenue, begins

at 10am.
Porthcawl Parkinson's support group
PARKINSON'S does not go away. It is hard to come to terms with; if you need support, it can be found at the Unitarian Chapel,

Nottage, Porthcawl. Group talks include rationing during the war years, lifeboat service, exercise, speech therapy, and Romans in the local area.

For full information, contact 01656 783071.

Christmas Vintage Market

@VintageInVale

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Station Approach Road, Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF62 5TH

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A Christmas Service

Will be held at
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Thursday 18th December 2014
at 7.00pm

Ward Stephen C Price
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Ward Stephen C Price
Adeiriedig, Llanarth a Monmouth

Yn cynnwys
Chor Meibion Pen-y-bont

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Croeso i Bawb

Merger: 'people before party'

THANK you for asking for readers' views on the proposed local government merger of the Vale with Bridgend.

My view is that the Labour group in the Vale want to merge with Bridgend because they know that it would guarantee that the Vale is forever under Labour control.

The Conservative group want to keep the Vale as it is because they know that it is the best chance the Vale has of being under future Tory control.

Neither of them wants to merge with Cardiff because they know that the projected reduction in councillor numbers would be mostly applied

in the Vale. However, the choice we have is of merging with the rich, vibrant, ambitious, capital city of Cardiff, or propping up the social and economic deprivation in the Llynfi, Garw and Ogwr valleys in Bridgend.

To me it's a "no brainer." It's got to be Cardiff, but not surprisingly our councillors say Bridgend.

This marvellous opportunity for residents of the Vale to become part of Cardiff is being denied by nothing more than the political and personal self-interest of the Vale councillors.

They must for once put the residents first in this important decision and not themselves.

Mr Cox, Barry.

'Cut councillors to save money'

THERE has been much discussion in your newspaper regarding merging councils and proposed salaries for AMs.

There is a need for some element of clarity over a number of issues. Should we merge with Cardiff or Bridgend? I do not have a particularly strong view either way, but find it strange that

people refer to the level of commuting from the Vale into Cardiff, shopping, or visiting the theatre.

Taking this view across south-east Wales would result in virtually all authorities being taken over by Cardiff, as the level of commuting into the city is higher than the commuting out.

Equally, given the sums of money spent on Cardiff Bay, Wales Millennium Centre etc. it would seem strange for it

not to be a focal point. Cardiff has 75 councillors, all paid a minimum of £13,300/year, which costs the taxpayer £1,285,500, the Vale has 47 councillors, all paid the same minimum, which costs the taxpayer over £841,000; and Bridgend has 54 councillors, all paid the same minimum, which costs the taxpayers £961,600.

Why not consider cutting the number of councillors to make major savings?

The same could be said of senior staff salaries, but one suspects that any merger will result in higher salaries for those at the top; in the same way that, during the last reorganisation, the salaries of the 22 chief execs looked surprisingly similar to those of the eight chief execs of the old counties, even though the new authorities were much smaller!

The AMs' salary increase was proposed by an 'independent' review. Headed by an ex-chief

officer of a local authority, this doesn't seem to be totally independent.

One must question the logic of a committee or group that concludes that the First Minister in Wales should be paid, for running what in some places would be described, by population, as a large local authority, a salary only a couple of thousand pounds less than the Prime Minister of the whole of the UK!

On a separate issue, I noticed the comments by our AM, Jane Hutt, about the benefits The Vale can expect from the new round of EU funding and the major achievements made with the previous two rounds.

It was noticeable that she made no mention of the fact that we were so successful in using the last two rounds of EU money (3 or 4 billion Euros) that we still didn't reach the cut-off point of 75 per cent of EU GDP!

(Name and address supplied).

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: **The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk**

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Councillor's plea: 'Fill in the questionnaire'

THE people of Rhose are united in their opposition to the council's proposal to downgrade their library to one which is manned by volunteers, as opposed to the current situation where it is crewed by two part-time staff.

Coun Jeff James and I support the view that this library must be kept open under the present arrangements.

We request that those who have not done so should complete the consultation questionnaire and dispatch letters objecting to the council regarding these proposals prior to the December 31.

Paper copies are available at Rhose library or the on line

version from the council website.

A public meeting has been organised to support this campaign at 7.30pm at Rhose Social Club on Monday, December 15. All are welcome.

Food for thought: Scrutiny Committee (lifelong learning) December 8, Agenda item 8: Background: The Council is a library authority under the terms of the Public Libraries and museums Act 1964 and, as such, has a statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service."

There are many examples of unsuccessful attempts to run libraries using volunteers. **Phil Clarke, Councillor for Rhose.**

'Say something good about Welsh NHS'

FOR some considerable time now, the BBC Welsh news service has said nothing good about the Health and Ambulance Services in Wales, the emphasis being on the failings, and nothing complimentary.

Recently, the reporter for Welsh health affairs reinforced his findings by displaying the vitriolic headlines of the Daily Mail condemning our Health Service – this, from a publication with a well-known history of being anti-everything! More

impartiality from the BBC would not be amiss.

The failings and criticism of our NHS can always be forthcoming from those who would privatise or sell off our assets, such as our own Vale MP, or the leader of the Welsh Conservative AMs at the Senedd.

I find it hard to believe that when one considers the tens of thousands of people treated weekly throughout our country, only bad things occur, and never anything good!

Two further points to consider: much is said of people living longer these days – might our excellent NHS be a factor?

Many Service people have been sent by our Government to West Africa to combat the Ebola crisis, along with many volunteers – and where do the majority of these volunteers originate? Take a prize off the top shelf if you said the NHS!

In conclusion, as someone born in 1932, I am well aware of the health hardships endured by millions prior to the foundation of the NHS in 1948, especially those with large families.

Therefore, I would suggest any denigration of this superb organisation does not go down well with folk of that era. **Colin M James, Barry.**

twenty12 flooring.com

We are pleased to announce that a winner has been chosen for our competition for a deserving home to win a new carpet.

The winner and details will be announced in the Christmas edition of The GEM next week.



PUBLIC MEETING

Monday December 15, at 7.30pm

Rhose Social Club

Thanks to everyone who signed our petition objecting to the Vale of Glamorgan Council plans to downgrade Rhose Library. If you want to ensure the future of our valued library, we need even more of your support.

How to make your voice heard:

- Complete the consultation questionnaire (before Dec 31) making clear you disagree with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposals.
- Write a letter of objection to the Council
- Get your family and friends to also write letters and complete the questionnaire
- Come to the public meeting to hear why Rhose says NO to downgrading our library.

Website: saverhooselibrary.wordpress.com

Contact: saverhooselibrary@gmail.com

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Group reports on a visit to Golau Caredig



Coun Lis Burnett of the Vale Council, Miles Utting, Golau Caredig manager, and Aidan Lynch of Barry Island Property Company.

THE FocusBARRY group's December meeting was held at Golau Caredig, the extra care facility apartments built by Hafod Care on the former Theatre Royal site.

Miles Utting, the manager, gave a guided tour to approximately 25 visitors which included FocusBARRY members, family and friends. Visitors were led from the reception area to laundry facilities, treatment rooms and a rather large two bedded apartment that has been adapted for disability living.

The facilities for residents are extensive and as would be

expected for 21st century living include the latest technology, such as Wifi, computer systems and surround sound.

The original shutters from the cinema have been retained and are visible in the main porch. It is envisaged that further artefacts from the old cinema, such as a stained glass panel will be incorporated at a later date. The tour concluded at the residents' restaurant where there are fabulous views across to the Waterfront and coastline.

Miles explained that residents are provided with a three-course lunch every day, with the restaurant being opened between the hours of 12pm – 2pm. It was from

here that Mr Dennis Harkus, chairman of FocusBARRY, showed a short aerial film available on YouTube, made by Kurtis Jacques, highlighting Barry's beautiful buildings and landscape.

The first guest speaker was Lis Burnett, Vale Council cabinet member for regeneration, innovation and planning, who gave a brief talk on the regeneration of the site of the Pleasure Park. She was supportive of the site being developed for leisure and tourism.

Coun Burnett said: "I feel that the only valid reason for the inclusion of residential development within a site designated leisure and tourism is if it can be argued on 'enabling' grounds to

facilitate the development."

The next guest speaker at the meeting was a Mr Aidan Lynch, of Barry Island Property Company, owned jointly by Hilco and Mr Ian Rogers.

He explained the difficulties of trying to find suitable buyers for the site.

They had looked at cinema operators and bowling alley companies, but they wanted an all year round facility with a high footfall.

They also considered Bingo operators but this is in decline.

However, there are hopes that a funfair operator has been found. He could not disclose who it is at this stage as negotiations are still ongoing.

PENARTH OXFAM'S VINTAGE RECORD SALE HITS £1,000

THE first ever Oxfam Penarth vinyl record promotion has hit the £1,000 mark in just two weeks!

The record sale which included over 110 collectable LPs and singles has been an absolute hit with local customers. Records that have been collected since the summer have been for sale, ranging in price from £4.99 to £200, covering all types of genre from rock and pop to folk, blues and jazz.

Vinyl continues to be more and more popular with young and older people. Report last week said that it had been the best year for vinyl sales since 1996, and local Penarth customers are following that trend.

Jayne Luxton, the Penarth Oxfam manager said: "It has been a great two weeks with some of our best ever music sales figures. We would like to thank everyone who has donated their unwanted vinyl."

"We would love to have more donations of any type of vinyl with donors being assured that we will obtain the best possible prices for any vinyl records

that come into the shop. We hope to do similar promotions in the future, including a classical vinyl promotion".

Customers who would like to donate their vinyl can bring it into the Oxfam shop at 8/8A Windsor Street Penarth. Arrangements can be made for large collections to be picked up by ringing 02920 706358.

Nigel Billingham

Support shown for small businesses

AM for the Vale and Coun Chris Elmore helped to promote Small Business Saturday with local traders at Marco's Cafe on December 6.

"Small businesses and the people who work in them, make a huge contribution to this community-I was proud to support Small Business Saturday last weekend. With the Christmas shopping season in full swing, I would encourage everyone to back their local shops and independent traders by shopping with them whenever they can," she urged.

Police crackdown on the Christmas time shoplifters

AS Barry's shops fill with shoppers, police in the town are carrying out operations to reduce shop-lifting in the lead-up to Christmas.

The officers are covering retail areas of the town such as the Waterfront, Holton Road, High Street and Park Crescent. Some officers have been detailed to deal with Culverhouse Cross.

Police Sergeant Angela Bennet, from community safety partnerships, said:

"Shoplifting offences historically rise during the weeks approaching Christmas and in previous years we have had some success in catching offenders through our seasonal

campaign to target thieves.

"We will be working closely with CCTV operators, local retailers and security staff around the town to deter and catch thieves."

PS Bennett added: "Christmas is a busy time of year for retailers in the town so it's important that we communicate with each other to ensure shoplifting is tackled effectively.

"Retailers know we are out in force at the moment and working together we greatly increase our chance of catching offenders".

Anyone with information on shoplifting should contact South Wales Police on 101 or call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

'EU funding is our money recycled'

JANE HUTT'S latest column was just one long encomium on the wonders of EU funding. But why is this?

She knows that this is just some of our own money being given back to us, large amounts having been lost – no audited accounts almost since Mrs Thatcher's time as PM.

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R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

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www.headstonesonline.com

Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium



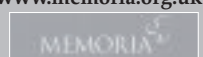
PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY

CF62 9PX

TEL: 01446 724040

Email: jane.barnett@cg.memoria.org.uk

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Independent Family Funeral Directors - Serving South Wales
24 Hour Personal Assistance
Providing a dignified service at your time of need

Tel: 01656 860545
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Over 100 years and trusted for 4 generations

Rhiannon's Greengrocers & Florists

Funeral flowers and tributes
with care and special attention.

Beautiful flowers
for all occasions.

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Family owned and run local independent funeral director

**LYNDsay ELLIS@
The Vale Funeral
Service** – your
friendly, local, professional
independent funeral
director, serving Barry and
surrounding areas.

We are committed to
providing a professional,
personal and caring service to
our bereaved families at all
times.

We aim to give care and
compassion in dealing with the
bereaved family's
requirements, and appreciate
that each funeral takes on a
different role.

No two funerals are the

same, as each loved one
deserves a personal tribute.

It is a rare privilege to be a
funeral director, to stand in a
sensitive position at a crucial
time in the midst of your
family, knowing that the high
standards of our service and
our reputation will help you
through the most difficult
times in your lives.

As a husband and wife team,
Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis are
not part of any large
conglomerate of companies, so
you can be assured of a service
that is unique, professional and
personal.

From the moment you
contact us, it will always be

Lyndsay and Nicola that you
will deal with and we will stay
with you every step of the way
during your difficult time.

It is worth noting that
Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale
Funeral Service is also
responsible for Spicketts of
Barry. W Spicketts are the
oldest funeral director in
Barry, having been founded by
the Spickett family in 1837.

Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale
Funeral Service's parent
company is Pidgeons of
Cardiff – another independent
family firm with the duty of
service to the bereaved, being
firmly established since 1920.

Personal service that does honour to your loved one

**ALL at Park
Funeral
Directors**
seek to give a
compassionate and
friendly service
when a family
suffers an event
which in most
cases, is the most
life-shattering
scenario one could
imagine.

By entrusting your
arrangements to an
independent funeral
director such as Park,
you can be sure of a
professional and very
personal approach and
all the assistance that
you need when dealing
with the death of a
loved one.

A funeral is very
often seen as a
celebration of a person's
life and Park will strive
to make the occasion,
one of respect and
acknowledgment of that
person's life and
achievements.

The funeral is all
about that person and a
fitting send off for
them.

We are able to
organise special tributes
by way of horse drawn
carriages, motor cycle
hearses of vintage
lorries, should that be a
family's wish.

A coffin with a theme
or maybe an eco-
friendly coffin are also
options that can be
catered for.

We make the funeral
about that person, and
that person alone. Your
loved one will remain at
rest at our premises in
Barry.

Not all funeral
directors can offer this
and it is a question that
you should ask.

We will make the
time to sit down and
talk with you and we
have both male and
female staff on hand,
which sometimes offers
bereaved families a
degree of comfort.

We are here to serve
and assist at that time of
need and can offer a
competitive pricing
structure for that
service.

We do not have to
answer to large
corporate organisations,
as we are a small
family-orientated
business, serving our
local community, while
trying to ease the
burden of the loss of a
family member.

We answer to you,
and not to a faceless
board of directors with a
line of managers who
will never meet the
families and, ultimately,
will have targets to meet

at all cost.

Some families like to
prepare for the future
and to those who do,
Park Funeral Directors
can offer a range of
funeral plans to suit all
pockets.

A funeral plan can
take the stress of a
bereavement away from
those left behind, by
having their funeral
arranged and paid for
in advance.

In current financial
circumstances, taking a
funeral plan can be a
prudent move as the
plan will secure the
funeral cost at today's
prices.



**Park Independent
Funeral Directors**
Caring for Your Loved Ones

- Loved ones remain at rest at our Barry premises
- 24hr Immediate Attention • Private Chapel of Rest
- Private Service Chapel • Affordable Funeral Packages
- Male & Female Staff • Funeral Plans Offered

Call us on:
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www.parkfunerals.co.uk
7, Tynnewydd Rd, Barry,
Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 5HH

Perfect Choice
Funeral Plans



SERVICES AT CHRISTMAS IN LOCAL METHODIST CHURCHES

**DETAILS of some of the
special services at
Methodist churches in
Barry are as follows:**

Cadoxton Methodist Church,
Friday, December 19 3.30pm
Christingle service; Sunday,
December 21, 9.45am Cadoxton
all age carol service.

Crossway Methodist Church,
December 21, 11am, Lessons and
Carols with Messy Church
Christingle.

Saint John, Barry Island,
2.30pm December 21, Christingle
and carols.

**Barry Uniting Church (The
Waterfront) December 21 at
5.45pm, Nativity service.**

**Saint David's, December 21 at
6pm, Carols by Candlelight.**

**Christmas Eve: Barry Uniting
Church, 4pm Christingle Service;
Saint David's Methodist Church,
11.15pm Midnight Holy
Communion by candlelight.**

**Christmas Day morning
services take place at most of the
Vale Methodist churches.**

**Golden Charter
Funeral Plans**

**AT YOUR
TIME OF
LOSS**

The most
thoughtful
decision you
could make

you can depend on us
for a high degree
of dignity
& care

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**Lyndsay Ellis @
The Vale Funeral
Service**

Husband and wife
Lyndsay and
Nicola Ellis

Our service
chapel will
seat 400

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Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 1EX

www.valefuneralservice.co.uk

Merthyr Dyfan extends the burial ground

ON Saturday, September 13, Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery celebrated its 125th anniversary. The day also marked the opening of the cemetery extension, which will enable burials to continue for many years.

The section was officially opened by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans and is marked by a beautiful granite stone donated by Simon Morgan of Mossfords, whose

ancestors also donated the marble bird bath that welcomes you as you enter the cemetery.

The work on the extension was undertaken by local company R&M Dyke Civil Engineering.

Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is the final resting place for many Barry residents and is a place of comfort to visit for loved ones, and therefore imperative to extend the life of the cemetery.

Barry Town Council



MERTHYR DYFAN CEMETERY

New octagonal planter.

Barry Town Council have recently purchased a new octagonal planter situated in the Old Garden of Remembrance. The planter contains plaques that can be purchased to remember a loved one.

Anyone requiring further information, please contact Barry Town Council on 01446 738663

AG Adams & Son are there to guide you

IT is a very sad fact of life that at some stage we will all be affected by bereavement.

When bereavement occurs, one of your first contacts is your local funeral director.

For more than 100 years, staff from AG Adams & Son in Barry have been there to guide bereaved families in everything that is required to provide the perfect final journey for their loved ones.

Robert Fouracre,

Funeral Director, is the son of the late Trevor and Vera Fouracre, well-known and respected funeral professionals in Barry.

Robert, with the help of Anthony, Mary, Howard and their colleagues, is continuing to provide the best possible service to the community of the Vale of Glamorgan where they all live.

A.G. Adams & Son FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Serving the community in Barry and its surrounding areas for over 100 years

Gladstone Road, Barry
Tel: 01446 735128
www.mylocalfuneraldirector.co.uk

Thomas Bros

Independent Funeral Directors

► Lady in Attendance
► Professional care assured

COWBRIDGE
Tel 01446 775681

Passmores offer a sympathetic, efficient service to the bereaved

WHEN a person dies, someone, usually a family member, has the responsibility of dealing with that person's estate.

This may include establishing what assets and liabilities that person had and working out whether a 'Grant of Probate' will be needed to administer the estate.

This is a daunting task under normal circumstances, but for many people may feel a great deal more burdensome mixed with feelings of grief and distress.

Usually the first thing to do is to establish whether there is a will in existence and to make a note of the fact that the estate is to be distributed in accordance with that will.

A will may be held with the solicitor that drew it up or in a safe custody box with a bank. A personal representative is usually appointed in the will to deal with the deceased person's estate, also known as an executor.

A Grant of Probate is issued by the Probate Registry, upon the submission of certain information based on the person's estate. It gives the personal representative authority to deal with the deceased person's estate and

allows them to access money held in banks, building societies or other investments. It also authorises the personal representative to sell the deceased person's home.

Once all funds have been collected in and all commitments have been paid, the personal representative may distribute the estate to the beneficiaries as set out in the will, or if no will, then in accordance with the rules of intestacy, which are a set of rules setting out who is to benefit.

The personal representative may also have to deal with the payment of inheritance tax, if the estate exceeds the current threshold. Other responsibilities may include defending a claim against the estate, should this arise.

Passmores offers a sympathetic and efficient service when dealing with probate and estate administration.

If you live or work in Barry, Cardiff or the Vale of Glamorgan and would like further information, ask to speak to our specialist, Carli Evans, on 01446 721000; or contact ce@passmores.com today.



Specialist legal advice from members of Solicitors for the Elderly serving Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan

**Wills • Powers of Attorney
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Probate and Estate Administration**

Just call Neil Willetts or Carli Evans today

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Home and hospital visits available

LET US BE YOUR GUIDE



21 Tynnewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB



CHOOSING a memorial in memory of a loved one can bring much comfort after bereavement.

CJ Ball & Son – Best Value Memorials have provided memorials for almost 100 years – making it easy and uplifting by offering excellent quality coupled with friendly, inspiring service at outstanding value.

Based at the top of Tynnewydd Road hill in Barry, their large show-garden and showroom display many styles of memorials – they also provide unique, individual memorials to a client's own specifications.

The very helpful staff's considerable knowledge and experience helps navigate through the many Rules and Regulations relating to the local burial grounds making it very easy to select the perfect memorials.

As a long established local business, they pride themselves on an unrivalled

craftsmanship and being able to provide a personal memorial that perfectly commemorates the life of a loved one.

Before final carving, a scale layout of the memorial is provided for approval to ensure complete satisfaction – carved from the finest quality natural stone, and guaranteed to last a lifetime.

As 'Approved Memorial Masons' under the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) registration scheme, all memorial installation craftsmen are fully licensed, as required by Health & Safety Regulations, ensuring the finished memorial is of the highest quality.

The memory of your loved one is truly entrusted in the hands of craftsmen at Best Value Memorials (CJ Ball & Son of Barry).

The perfect memorial can be a lasting comfort...

Best Value MEMORIALS



Quality crafted memorials at the Lowest Prices

CJ Ball & Son
116 Tynnewydd Rd.
Barry,
CF62 8BB.

01446 734 607
www.cjballmemorials.co.uk

Amlosgfa Llangrallo Coychurch Crematorium

Tel: 01656 656605 Fax: 01656 668108



■ A Joint Local Authority Crematorium provided by Bridgend County Council, Vale of Glamorgan County Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Council. Serving bereaved families from any area, since 1970, with no out of area cremation fee surcharges applied.

■ Grade 2* listed building, designed by a world famous architect, displaying world renowned stained glass of breathtaking proportion, set in beautiful grounds. Two impressive chapels with outstanding pipe organs. High tech computerised facilities for recorded music provision, plus audio and video recording and webcasting.

■ Providing a comprehensive range of services to the bereaved, catering for all religious or non-religious backgrounds.

■ Working closely with families, Funeral Directors, Health Authorities and Voluntary Organisations, the Crematorium aims to meet the needs of the bereaved it serves with compassion, dignity and respect in a tranquil and sympathetic environment.

■ At the forefront of the provision of high quality bereavement care, incorporating the latest advances in technology and memorialisation.

Noted runner up in the category of "Best Crematorium and Grounds" in the UK's Cemetery of the Year Awards, for "excellence and innovation in crematorium management, design and customer service"

An annual Green Flag Award Winner from 2010 to 2014, in recognition of a well managed, high quality facility and green space.

Staff will be pleased to provide further information on the full range of services available at the Crematorium, upon request.

Please address your enquiries to:

Coychurch Crematorium, Coychurch, Bridgend CF35 6AB

Tel 01656 656605

Fax 01656 668108

coychurchcrematorium@bridgend.gov.uk



Hostel is helping its community



Bryn Hafren pupils' dream visit to royal ballet school

ON December 1, 19 pupils, who are studying BTEC Dance, got the opportunity of a lifetime.

They were taken to the Royal Ballet School in Covent Garden by their dance teachers, Mrs Roach and Mrs Walby, to launch their involvement in a dance project.

The Royal Ballet School chose five schools from around the country to take part in their 'adVANCE' project.

This will involve pupils working with a dance artist from The Royal Ballet School over a ten-week period, culminating in a performance opportunity at The Royal Ballet School in March 2015.

The launch day began with a tour of The Royal Ballet School building, starting in the Margo Fonteyn foyer.

Bryn Hafren pupils saw the state-of-the-art dance studios where the students have their classes and were taken onto the Bridge of Aspiration that links the school with The Royal Opera House next door.

The spaces were beautiful and it must be an amazing place to go to school every day.

The Bryn Hafren pupils then had the chance to take part in a ballet class, in The De Valois Studio - named after the founder of The Royal Ballet, Ninette De Valois. They enjoyed performing the exercises to live music played by a pianist.

After lunch, the Bryn Hafren pupils were

allowed to watch a Pas de Deux ballet class of second year students - the boys and girls had to work incredibly hard partnering each other, with the boys learning how to lift the girls in daring moves that required amazing strength.

The Bryn Hafren pupils then got the chance to chat to the students and ask them about life at the school.

The Royal Ballet School students were interested to hear what life was like at Bryn Hafren. They were a little jealous of the 2.55pm finish and the fact that sixth formers get free time, as their day at The Royal Ballet School goes from 8.30am-6pm and they have to go to school on Saturdays, too!

Hopefully, the young people from both schools will be able to keep up a pen pal link during the project next term and they will meet again at the final project performance on March 22.

The pupils involved in the project are: Chloe Davies, Leah-Jade Thomas, Seren Neil, Lauren Guerico, Kathryn Bullen, Georgia Bullen and Cariad Williams in year-13; Demi-Lee Guillver, Kelsey Hutchinson, Menna Price, Niamh Zappaterra, Alex Hopkins, Shanay Jenkins, Nicole Deol and Jessica Cushman in year-12; Chelsea Sullivan, Chloe Bagnall, Seren Cummings, Harriet Knowles and Billie-James Cayton in year-11.

VALE AM Jane Hutt and council cabinet member Coun Bronwen Brooks paid a visit to Ty Iolo hostel in Barry last week to hear how, through the efforts of council staff, residents, and third sector organisations, it is increasingly becoming an integral part of the community.

The hostel has opened its doors to numerous third sector organisations that provide support and activities for residents and members of the community, including Flying Start drop-ins and Shine's Stay and Play sessions.

People can also seek advice on debt and benefit issues at the CAB and Cardiff and Vale Credit Union drop-ins, and Ty Iolo has even been helping residents build self-confidence and employability skills by putting on Hub'.

One of the most popular initiatives has been the Food Co-op, where people can buy reduced price fresh fruit and veg from a local supplier, which fits in well with activities such as the weight management sessions, and a 10-week cooking course run by Communities First.

Coun Brooks remarked how she "used to receive a lot of complaints from residents in the area regarding the hostel, but in recent years these complaints have almost entirely ceased."

A spokesperson for Ty Iolo said: "We are currently looking into developing Ty Iolo into a 'Community

courses such as first aid, computer literacy and DIY.

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COTTAGE ON THE BEACH AT BARRY?



Young musicians make progress

YOUNG Barry musicians learning with Jo Weaving are celebrating after a term of successes.

Oliver Bartlett passed grade 5 piano, Josiah Whiffen passed grade 4 piano with merit.

Hannah Mitchem passed grade 2 piano and grade 3 theory with merits.

Jack Ollier passed grade 5 clarinet with distinction.

Jack, along with Benedict Griffin, entered

this year's Music in The Vale competition.

Jack entered on clarinet, piano and recorder and was runner-up in the junior class.

Jack and Benedict were runners-up in the ensemble class.

Jack was then awarded the Steven Burges trophy for the 'Most Promising Pianist' of the whole competition.

All students have worked very hard over the year and are looking forward to the Christmas break!

MY daughter found this postcard of Barry taken in 1910 (posted the same year).

It looks as if a cottage was on the beach in those days. Could anyone tell me about it?

Mrs A Thomas, Barry.

Christingle service
BARRY Uniting Church will be holding a Christingle service at Barry Waterfront Centre (next to the Waterfront Medical Centre) at 4pm on Christmas Eve. The short service of carols will include the distribution of Christingle oranges. All are welcome.

Planting ceremony to honour the fallen...



The trees will remember them

ON Saturday and Sunday, volunteers planted the last of 700 trees along the entrance to Barry - to commemorate Barriars who never returned from the Great War.

The Woodland Trust is supporting the White Farm Conservation

Group by donating the majority of the trees, but others have been purchased from local donations.

Volunteers were met at the junction of Port Road East and Merthyr Dyfan Road, along with representatives of Barry Royal British Legion to mark the end of the project.

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CATS PROTECTION'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE IS A GLITTERING SUCCESS!

A FESTIVE event at Cats Protection's Bridgend centre raised £2,200 for the charity, on December 6, with more than 300 people attending.

The Christmas fayre was a chance for people to meet and make friends with the adorable cats in the charity's car, desperately in need of loving homes. Santa and his helpers made an appearance at the event to the delight of the children, and there was a lot to see and do including raffle, tombola, and wheel of fortune, children's colouring competition and much more.

Suzy Davies AM went along to support the charity and said: "Another amazing event at the centre. I am so impressed with its rehoming record, the care the cats receive, and the commitment of the staff and volunteers."

Sue Dobbs, centre manager said: "We had great support on the day, so we'd like to thank everyone who came along. If we didn't receive such wonderful support from our community, we wouldn't be able to raise so much money to help needlessly homeless cats in the area."

Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is part of a national network of over 250 volunteer-run branches and 31 adoption centres that together help over 194,000 cats and kittens each year. The charity's vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs.

Pictures by SUE DOBBS



Suzy Davies with centre staff.



Tilly-Mae Davies – one year old.



Amanda and Alice Darroch with Puss.



Team Bridgend CP.



Carys and Iestyn Pallister with Santa.



Kelly and Oliver Matthews.



Children's activity corner.



The Graham family.

Virtuoso's school masterclass

BARRY Comprehensive School was delighted to welcome concert pianist, Richard Meyrick on his return visit to the school's music department recently.

Richard's previous visits to the school left lasting impressions on his audience of music students, especially those brave enough to play for him. During the afternoon, students from year-7 to year-11, along with sixth form students, listened to Richard talk about and play music with equal passion.

Students performed their set pieces and accepted the constructive criticism with dignity and a fair amount of laughter.

Those performing included Oliver

Bartlett, Jason Grice and Jack Ollier from Barry Comprehensive School, and Claudia Perry, Kate Roberts, and Camille Danielson from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

Year-7 student Jack Ollier is currently preparing for his grade 6 piano examination and was the final student to play. Richard was so impressed with Jack that he offered him a scholarship to study in London as part of the Pianoman Scholarship Scheme. The scheme provides all expenses paid, free lessons with Richard at his acclaimed Piano Studio.

It was an immensely enjoyable experience for the students who were able to extend their performance skills under the close guidance of Richard Meyrick.

AC



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How box of chocolates became big cash donation!



Ian Hunt of Filco presents the cheque.

WHEN Laura McGreevy, a member of the fundraising and marketing committee for Emmaus South Wales, approached Ian Hunt of Filco in Cowbridge, she was only requesting a box of chocolates for a raffle and fundraising table top sale.

However, instead of donating a raffle prize, Mr Hunt put Emmaus South Wales forward for a donation through 'Making A Difference Locally'.

Making a Difference Locally is a charity launched to help independently run Nisa local stores to add value to their communities.

This resulted in a donation of £250 for Emmaus South Wales, which was presented to Mrs McGreevy by Mr Hunt on November 13, on behalf of their Filco store in Cowbridge.

The owner of Filco Stores, Ian Hunt, said: "We are proud to be able to support such a worthy charity and I am sure this donation will make a real difference to help people build their lives again."

"We believe it is important as a retailer to be at the heart of the community and to support those who need it most. We continually donate to local good causes in the area through Making A Difference Locally, and the more people who shop in our stores, the more money will be raised for the community."

For more information about the

charity visit
www.makingadifferencelocally.com/ADL.

AT Emmaus communities, formerly homeless men and women, called companions, live and work together in a supportive environment. The reasons for their homelessness vary; relationship breakdown, substance abuse, poverty, but all companions share a desire and drive to get a fresh start.

Companions often credit Emmaus as a turning-point in their lives, the point when they shifted from despair to hope.

Emmaus was established by Abbé Pierre, a former Catholic priest and French resistance fighter who opened the first community in Paris in 1949. Since then, this non-religious movement now has more than 400 communities worldwide, with 25 in the UK.

Emmaus South Wales will be the first Emmaus community in Wales, based at a former sheltered housing facility in Bridgend, which will cost £1.4m to renovate. Emmaus South Wales is currently fund raising to secure this £1.4m, but will fund the ongoing costs of running the community through its Social Enterprise. Its five shops are currently trading successfully and Emmaus South Wales will open more... possibly with one in Cowbridge!

For more details contact Tom Clarke, director Emmaus South Wales, at tom@emmaussouthwales.org.uk.

Stunning views on Far Hir ridgeway

ORIGINALLY, the weather forecast was good but deteriorated overnight and the 10 Penarth and District Ramblers who joined Clive for the trip up to Blaenavon, were met with dense fog.

Setting off past the Rifleman's Arms, they began climbing over some of the grass-covered waste heaps that litter the area, a relic of the industrial era when Blaenavon Ironworks was the main source of employment.

From Ball's Pond and tramping along muddy paths with the occasional sheep looming out of the mist they arrived at the grave of Foxhunter, ridden to victory on many occasions by Harry Llewellyn.

Making their way to the trig point on Blouenge for coffee, slippery rocks led down through the heather to the old tram road above Garn Ddyrys where surrounding and long distance views were hidden behind a blanket

of fog. Reaching Keeper's Pond and continuing on to Pwll-du to pass the water balance lift, then uphill past the Dyne Steel Incline, lunch followed on a disused tip before the downhill journey to Upper Brick Yard.

Then, taking a detour to view the southern entrance to the famous Pwll-du Tunnel, the longest horse-drawn tram tunnel in Britain, the group retraced their steps to Blaenavon for a swift pint at the Rifleman's before setting off for home.

The following day dawned bright and clear which was a bonus for leader Robin, who with spaniel Pepper took six walkers on a journey over part of the Black Mountain in glorious unexpected warm sunshine for much of the day.

Crossing the Tawe River, a long gradual climb led up to the ridgeway on Fan Hir from where there were stunning surrounding views and tramping along the fairly flat ridgeway towards Fan

Brycheiniog a patchy mist began to blow in from the west.

In order to escape from the coolness of the mist which surrounded the trig point at 802-metres, the group carried on making their descent into the valley below where overlooking the glacial lake of Llyn y Fan Fawr, a perfect stopping place for lunch out of the breeze.

Walking past the lake and climbing onto the rough moraine formed during the last Ice Age, they continued past Fan Fechan, which lies below the steep sided Fan Hir, on a tricky route through mud and rocks - to finally drop back down into the valley beside the Nant Tawe Fechan returning to their start point.

On December 14, a change to the programme - meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an eight-mile moderate walk from Chepstow, visiting the Eagle's Nest and the ruins of Piercefield House; contact William on 01446 747239.

JOY

WI SIGN OFF WITH PANTO

Rhose WI celebrated their Christmas social evening on December 4 at the Community Hall, when president Jenny Reed reminded members that the next meeting will take place on January 8, at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road.

Resolutions will be voted upon, followed by a curling competition. The trip to Bath market will take place on December 11, the coach leaving Adenfield Way at 9.30am. The Christmas lunch will be on December 18 at The Victoria Inn, Sigginstone (12.30pm). The visit to the pantomime at the Memorial Hall, Barry is on

December 19, members to make their own way to the venue for 7.30pm. There will be no skittles or craft club this month.

After the announcements, the meeting got into party mood when supper was served. The WINOS drama group entertained with a Christmas panto, set in a home for retired pantomime characters.

The WINOS rose to the occasion, giving stellar performances all round. Barbara Goodway, on behalf of the audience, thanked the cast for a very entertaining show. The president then closed proceedings wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

JJ

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Movember torchlight walk raises £1,000 for Velindre



Left to right: Sam Osborne, Mathew Rowlands, Benni Schindehütte, Ferdi Schindehütte, Harold Schindehütte, Jack Giddings, James Edwards and Huw Rudall.

A GROUP of friends from the Vale and Bridgend challenged the norm on Saturday, November 29 with their 'Movember' effort to raise awareness for men's health and fundraise for Velindre Cancer Centre.

The group, led by James Edwards included Sam Osborne, Huw Rudall, Mathew Rowlands, Jack Giddings, Benni Schindehütte, Ferdi Schindehütte and Harold Schindehütte and successfully completed a night walk of 24km along the Vale of Glamorgan coastal path, starting

from Rhose Point and finishing at Ogmore-by-Sea.

The group navigated the distance in seven hours by torchlight, taking them into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Over £1,000 was donated towards Velindre Cancer Centre from the event, and generated an overwhelmingly positive response online, a spokesperson reported.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have supported Velindre, to the volunteers who supported us on the night and to the businesses that closely backed our campaign, including Trent Services, Reybah, Manuca, GTD Sports massage and Peak Supps Nutrition."

"We believe it would be a great idea to host an event similar to this again in the future and would love to see the Vale coastal path regularly maintained, so the routes are clear and safe all year round."

"See our donation campaign: www.justgiving.com/midnight1."

The Wales Coast Path covers 870 miles around the Welsh coastline. It is the largest continuous coastal path in the world, and it enables you to enjoy Wales' outdoor spaces to the max. (<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk>)

Your pet needs a winter coat, too!

WITH temperatures dropping and the first flurry of snow forecast for the coming weeks, let us not forget that our four-legged friends need to be ready for winter, too! Here the Dogs Trust, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend, offers helpful tips to keep your pet safe and warm and avoid those winter hazards.

Let your dog's winter coat grow and, particularly if you have a puppy, short-haired or old dog, buy him a sensible winter coat – a high visibility coat will ensure your dog can be seen in the dark.

Keep your dog on a lead if it is snowing heavily. Snow can be disorientating so he or she can easily become lost.

Make sure your dog is wearing a collar and an ID tag and is microchipped. It is important to ensure your microchipping database is up to date with your address and contact details

Make sure you wipe your dog's legs, feet and stomach when you come indoors after a snowy walk as the grit from the roads can irritate their feet.

Never leave your dog in a car during extreme weather, hot or cold.

Do not let your dog walk on frozen ponds – the ice may not be thick enough to take his weight.

If your dog does fall through the ice, TT never be tempted to go in after him. If possible encourage him to swim back to you and call the emergency services.

Antifreeze is highly poisonous but tasty to dogs. Keep it well out of their reach and mop up any spills.

Says Dogs Trust veterinary director, Paula Boyden: "With British winter's long nights and cold days, it is important to keep both you and your dog safe and warm when you are out walking. Dogs Trust has 20 Rehoming Centres across the UK where all our canine carers work extra hard during the winter months providing blankets and heating to ensure all our hairy hounds are kept happy and healthy."

"We remind dog owners to follow the advice to make sure your dogs have a wonderful, warm and safe winter."

'Rights guide' for carers is launched

NEW Carers UK research has found that over two million of us will start providing care for older, sick or disabled loved ones every year and many will go without the vital advice and information they need.

Carers UK has Carers Rights Guide available at www.carersuk.org, which contains

important information on how to get support, including details on upcoming changes to carers' rights.

We're also ready to answer questions via our advice line. Readers can call 0808 808 7777 between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday; or email: advice@carersuk.org with any specific queries.

Helena Herklots, (Chief executive, Carers UK).

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U3A member is on the front page!

EARLIER this year, The GEM reported that a member of Sully U3A Knitters and Stitchers Group had been accepted as a freelance designer for prestigious *Inside Crochet* magazine.

Deborah Stuart has since had a number of patterns featured in that publication and this month (issue 60) she has made it onto the cover with her stylish chunky hat design, 'Greengage'. In addition, Deborah is interviewee of the month on the magazine's website blog and her 'Dunes Cowl'

pattern from a previous issue has been snapped up by a German publisher for inclusion in an international bookazine.

Nor does it stop there. Next month, *Inside Crochet* will feature Deborah's design for a reversible Mobius Cowl in Tunisian Crochet, a cross between crochet and knitting.

The designer herself is flattered by the turn of events: "It has been something of a whirlwind. The cover feature came completely out of the blue. Naturally I'm delighted. Crochet is very on trend just now so there's never been a better time to join

group and take up a new hobby".

Knitters and Stitchers is one of the many interest groups members can join with Sully U3A. After completing their Poppy project for Remembrance Sunday, the group went on to 'yarn bomb' the trees outside the Old School in time for Christmas!

The next monthly meeting will be at 2pm on January 8 in the Old School, Sully, when the drama group will perform the pantomime *The Belle of the Ball - a Third Age Love Story*. New members can join that afternoon for 2015.

Sue Colman, Sully U3A

Luke wins a medal in skills competition



Luke Mayor at the WorldSkills final.

A DINAS POWYS student from Cardiff and Vale College won an award at the WorldSkills UK final, a major skills competition held at the NEC Birmingham.

He was competing in a range of categories against more than 600 people from across the UK.

Luke Mayor took the bronze award in the electrical installation category. The 20-year-old is currently working

as an apprentice at Scenic Services, an electrical contractor in Cardiff, as well as studying his NVQ level 3

in electrical installation at Cardiff and Vale College.

Luke said: "It's a big achievement and I'm very pleased at how well the competition went. I've never competed at this level before and the competition environment was very intimidating."

"Competing against eight others, we were put under a lot of pressure to complete our tasks in the allocated time. I found it difficult to find time to practise and I ended up having to book time off work, but I'm glad I did."

"I've had such great support from my employer and my tutor Geoff Shaw; I'd never have achieved any of this without Geoff."

CHRISTMAS at Bethel Baptist Church

Saturday
13th December,
4-6pm
FAMILY FUN

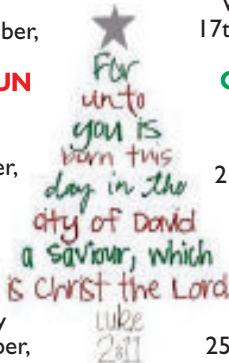
Sunday
21st December,
6.00pm
CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday
24th December,
6.00pm
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wednesday
17th December,
10.00am
COFFEE & CAROLS

Sunday
21st December,
10.30am
FAMILY SERVICE

Thursday
25th December,
10.00am
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE



Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road, Barry
www.bethelbarry.org

Barry Choral Society's 'Lullaby of the Nativity'

BARRY Choral Society are pleased to welcome you to their Christmas Concert, *Lullaby of the Nativity*, which will be held tomorrow, Friday, December 12, at Crossway Methodist Church, Court Road at 7pm.

Conducted by Emma Arscott and accompanied by Sian Davies, the choir will perform *Candlelight Carol* by John Rutter, *Ding Dong Merrily on High* arranged by Martin Williamson, *Christmas Lullaby* arranged by Mac Huff, *A Lullaby of the Nativity* by Richard Blackford, and *Patapan, Past Three a Clock and The Shepherd's Farewell* by Berlioz. The choir's performance of Elgar's *The Snow* will be



Helina Rees

accompanied by violinist, Helina Rees. Helina is the choir's guest artiste for the concert and will be performing in the first and second half.

Helina was born and brought up in Barry before she moved to London to pursue a four-year degree at the Royal Academy of

Music, graduating in 1996.

She is now working as a freelance musician and teaches violin and piano privately.

The audience will participate with the choir and raise the roof in their singing of some beautiful, well-loved traditional carols.

Tickets priced at £6, to include tea, coffee and mince pies, are on sale at Harmony Furnishing, High Street, choir members and at the door.

Join Barry Choral Society on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Crossway Methodist Church. A very warm welcome awaits you.

For more information contact Sheila on 01446 748724 or Helen on 02920 531359.

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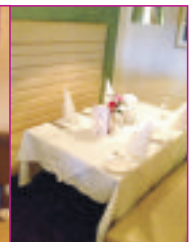


Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Christmas opening hours: Mon - Saturday 12-2pm (lunchtime), Monday - Sunday 6pm - midnight (evenings).

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Operation Christmas Child sends off 25,000 gift boxes



THIS year's Operation Christmas Child campaign based at the Llandow Industrial Estate, Cowbridge, has drawn to a close with nearly 25,000 shoeboxes now on their way to Zambia and Belarus.

Thanks to the supreme efforts of many volunteers each shoebox was checked and sorted into age groups before being loaded onto the two lorries needed to transport such a large quantity.

Warehouse managers

Mr and Mrs Ted Bird and Mr and Mrs Roy Hibbert, together with volunteer recruitment manager Mrs Leanne Popham, wish to express their sincere appreciation to all those who helped and also to the many businesses on the Llandow Industrial estate who helped with the smooth running of this year's campaign.

Very sincere thanks also go to Mr James Mordecai of HRT Ltd and Mrs Karen Tilley of L E L Properties Ltd for making a warehouse available for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

TM

Photographer's journey of discovery in the Vale

AN English photographer, who came to Wales in the 1980s, has developed a passion for the landscape of the Vale and scenes of his adopted town of Barry.

When Callum Hamilton first arrived in Wales he had little knowledge of what lay to the west of Cardiff.

"I grew up in the London Borough of Bromley. In the early 1980s I attended a course at UWIST in Cardiff and that's when I first became aware of Barry and the rest of the Vale.

"In 2000 I moved to Barry and, because I'm a keen photographer began to build up a collection of landscape images of the area.

"A few years ago, the shop Gifted, on High St, stocked some prints and cards of my images and the owner suggested a calendar might be a good idea.

"I was reluctant to make the necessary investment of time and money but decided to give it a go when I was made redundant.

"The Barry calendar that resulted was well received and is now in it's third year."

This year Callum decided to do a Barry



ABOVE: The lighthouse at the entrance to Barry docks.

2015 calendar and a Vale 2015 calendar.

"To broaden the appeal that much more, I ventured inland to take in locations such as Ogmere Castle and Cowbridge.

"Being a photographer and having these calendars as projects provides a great incentive to get out and about and enjoy the lovely scenery, sometimes overlooked, that this area has to offer."

Callum does have one gripe though: "I'm confident that there are many great shots still to be had although I would particularly like some

decent snowfall so I may top up my supply of traditional wintery images!"

The Barry calendar is available at High Street Post Office, the Lake Shop, Marco's and Selleys. The Vale calendar is in Cowbridge, Llantwit and Penarth bookshops, Nicola's Juice Bar at Penarth Pier, Llantwit beach café and WG Davies in Cowbridge. In Barry, Cwtch Coffee, Travellers in Mind and the Forest Café stock both calendars.

For more information go to www.callumhamilton.co.uk.

Cyclist Nicole supports scenic cycling route

VALE-based Olympic gold medallist Nicole Cooke is backing a new cycle route close to home that now connects Cardiff Bay with Bridgend – allowing enthusiasts to take on one of Wales' most scenic, but less challenging routes throughout the year.

The National Cycle Network, NCN88 in the rural Vale is supported by the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, funded by the Welsh Government and the European

Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

It has now been completed following £729,000 of investment from the Vale Council, and joins Cardiff to its scenic hinterland all the way around the Vale to Bridgend.

Nicole, who grew up cycling the Vale as a youngster, said: "I've been lucky to have such beautiful roads as my daily training ground which meant that even during gruelling training sessions, the views and rolling countryside always made it a pleasure to be out on the bike."

TY HAFAN LOTTERY

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D856:

● £2,000: 502036
● £10: 208124, 525055, 793926, 690541, 419317, 328281, 477943, 545045, 511425, 722932, 101907, 256158, 644021, 638029, 441050, 676280, 162794, 482448, 607600, 245496.

● £5: 490803, 791504, 173126, 291396, 882688, 310155, 240406, 615241, 880095, 274342, 755285, 674328, 478025, 944341,

156121, 970797, 342860, 811819, 129024, 574029, 723545, 833238, 845194, 283782, 956406, 737193, 797629, 561708, 580379, 875816, 318836, 161989, 764173, 874614, 371084, 735997, 750968, 811533, 493470, 612696, 139892, 233675, 590874, 553547, 687704, 489551, 173414, 770209, 183818, 758188, 753540, 902145, 137767, 814632, 606985, 731289, 626, 812, 1371, 1967.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Could you host an international student?

Allech chi roi cartref i fyfyrwr rhyngwladol?

Cardiff and Vale College needs residents in the Barry or Rhos area to host long term international students.

Mae Coleg Coeddydd a'r Fro angen trigolion yn ardal y Barri neu'r Rhws i roi llety i fyfyrwyr rhyngwladol yn y tymor hir.

Many international students live with local people during their time at College to gain a taste of British life while living away from home.

A student needs their own room and meals provided, with hosts earning up to £110 per week.

Mae llawer o fyfyrwyr rhyngwladol yn byw gyda phobl leol yn ystod eu cyfnod yn y Coleg i gael blas ar fywyd Prydeinig tra maen nhw eddi cartref.

Mae'r myfyrwr angen ystafell iddynt eu hunain a phrydau bwyd wedi eu paratol. Bydd y rhai sy'n rhoi llety iddynt yn cael hyd at £110 yr wythnos.

For further information please contact Cardiff and Vale College International Office:
Am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â Swyddfa Ryngwladol Coleg Coeddydd a'r Fro:

international@cavc.ac.uk +44 (0)29 2090 8004 www.cavc.ac.uk/homestay



VIFC maintain lead at the top of the table

THE VI's had threatened to let another lead slip but finished strong in Rhosne against Sully Sports to maintain their two point lead at the league table's summit.

VI captain Mortimore's brilliantly improvised overhead volley gave his side an early lead but Sully found a way back through a second half header.

Mortimore - who also scored in the reverse fixture - secured all three points for Bill Laing's side with just minutes on the clock as his squad threw everything forward to avoid a repeat of last weekend's Pumas slip up.

The league leaders were superior overall but Sully's goalkeeper thwarted every VI opportunity to double their lead. Mortimore, Rogers, R.Lewis and Robinson all seeing efforts saved.

VI management Bill Laing and Hywel Dark made two changes to the side that drew 2-2 last weekend with the returning James Austin making an impressive return from a year-long knee injury.

The game itself threatened to boil over but thankfully, it never went too far and it was Mortimore's two superb goals that grabbed the headlines.

The young striker's first came within 10 minutes and is a contender for his best so far this season. The Sully goalkeeper was unlucky to concede after his brilliant save pushed Mortimore's header onto the bar only for the ball to fall back to the VI captain. With quick reactions and great ability, Mortimore adjusted himself to send an overhead volley into the far corner and over a retreating defenders head.

VIFC needed to protect their advantage and, if possible, build on it but another defensive lapse as Sully equalised midway through the second half.

The back four of Robinson, Charles, Cox and Goodwin had held Sully at bay throughout the game without any real threat until the goal. Currently keeping his position between the posts, goalkeeper Rob

West could do nothing to prevent the close range header from levelling the tie.

The battle in the midfield was a running theme throughout the game with Garrison, Laing, Austin and R.Lewis all fighting hard to win possession and set up their front men. As the minutes counted down and the VI's threw everything forward, it was the composure of midfielder Joe Laing and Mortimore's clinical finishing that won the day.

Leigh Lewis' throw-ins are one of many attacking attributes of the winger and his throws into a crowded Sully box were causing the away side concerns. One of these caused a scramble with J.Laing's calmness in the box setting up Mortimore to fire home a winner with his left foot.

The win keeps VI Football Club at the top of the table, for now two points clear, but knowing Wenvoe Arms have two games in hand. Wenvoe continued to keep the pressure on with a 7-3 win over Barry Albion.

Man of the match went to Jordan Mortimore for his goals and work rate during the game with Sully's goalkeeper a close runner up; the shotstopper kept his side in the game with several top rate saves.

Team: R.West, J.Robinson, T.Charles, N.Cox, C.Goodwin, R.Lewis, J.Laing, D.Garrison, J.Austin, J.Mortimore, A.Rogers. **Substitutes:** P.Lucas, L.Lewis.

Our next fixture is against Cogan Coronation this coming Saturday, 2pm kick-off. The last time these two sides met, it ended 5-4 to VIFC in an absolute thriller with the lead being exchanged multiple times.

Thanks to our supporters at who turned up to cheer on the side in Rhosne and also thank you to our loyal sponsors. Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

RC

Llantwit under-12s in great form

LLANTWIT MAJOR under-12s welcomed Rummy to the Rec Fields.

On a windy day a close passing game was required to prevent any errors in a game Llantwit wanted to win after their last defeat to Rummy.

From the kick off Rummy's first ruck resulted in a quick try under the Llantwit posts followed by the conversion - seven points down in the first two minutes, it wasn't looking good.

Llantwit brushed themselves down and after a few words from the coaches started to move the ball along the back line.

This started to spread the opposition defence resulting in a scrum on Rummy's five meter line. From the back of the scrum the ball collected by scrum half Stephen Williams found its way to Jacob Pereira, who drove through the defence to score in the right hand corner. With the conversion successfully completed by Kieran Daw we were now drawing 7-7.

Rummy came straight back, but the Llantwit blitz defence seemed to push every attack backwards, forcing Rummy to make handling errors. One of these errors and a brilliant steal and drive by Sam Deere saw the ball passed up from the floor into the charging hands of Kieran Daw, who ran half the length of the pitch to score Llantwit's second try and his second successful conversion

followed.

Rummy, not to be outdone, started to string along some passes and a lovely kick over the top of the Llantwit defence resulted in Ewan Heywood being sin-binned for the remainder of the half for pulling down a Rummy player without the ball.

The penalty that followed resulted in a forward drive and try in the right hand corner; the conversion wasn't successful.

Llantwit were now a man down and only two points ahead, and it was now make or break time for the squad. Some good driving runs from Ethan Watkins, Jacob Hunt and Isaac McBride, supported by Rhys Lloyd, Cai Ellerton and Luke Thomas, kept the scoreline as it was until halftime.

With the squad back to full strength it was hopefully time for Llantwit to add to the scoreline, but the larger Rummy pack had different ideas.

Most of the calls seemed to go Rummy's way but that didn't seem to help them as they were camped most of this time in their own half. Brilliant tackling by the team and especially by one of our smallest players, Spencer Williams, stopped every attack.

A scrum was eventually awarded to Llantwit inside Rummy's 22 and this was quickly executed; with the ball passing quickly through the backs hands it allowed Ewan Heywood to come through on a lovely angled run to score under the posts, making up for his earlier yellow card, with the conversion completed by Kieran Daw.

Now on a roll and with Rummy's discipline letting them down, Llantwit were now in the opposition 22. With a couple of good phases of play and another steal by Rhys Lloyd and Cai Ellerton, the ball found its way to Kieran Daw, who sidestepped his way to the try line.

This allowed a lovely backline move of controlled passing which saw Conner Booker race half the length of the pitch to score Llantwit's fifth, and final, try of the day, with the conversion completed by Kieran Daw; final score 33-12.

Squad: Morgan Thomas, Jacob Pereira, Kieran Daw, Cole Saunders, Jacob Hunt, Kofi Jones, Stephen Williams, Jordan Griffith-Lee, Conner Booker, Ewan Heywood, Spencer Williams, Ethan Watkins, Rhys Lloyd, Sam Deere, Isaac McBride, Cai Ellerton, Tom Redfern-Hughes and Luke Thomas.

DB

Bridgend cycling star's book signing

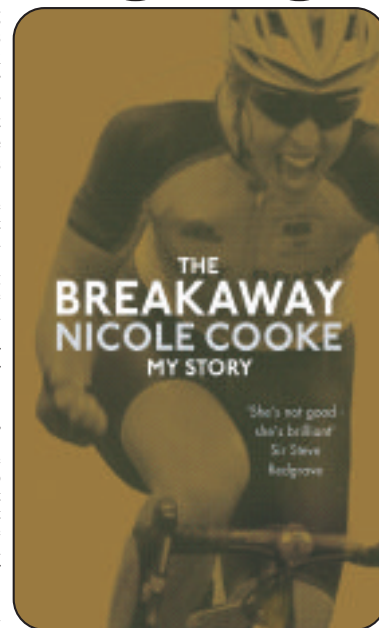
BRIDGEND cycling star Nicole Cooke is hosting a book signing of her autobiography, *The Breakaway*, at Bridgend Cycle Centre this Saturday.

Described by The Daily Mail as "the most substantial and impassioned of this year's sporting memoirs", The Breakaway was named The Sunday Times Sports Book of the Year 2014 and longlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year prize.

This Saturday, December 13, Olympic champion Nicole will be returning to the bike shop where it all started to host a book signing at Bridgend Cycle Centre where Nicole would regularly call in for repairs and spare parts during the seven years she rode to Bryncteg School to get in as much training as possible around her school work.

Nicole went on to a spectacular career, winning world, Olympic and Commonwealth titles and became the first Briton to win the Tour de France in 2006.

In The Breakaway, Cooke reveals the real story behind British cycling's rise to global dominance and how with a child's dreams of success, she left home at 18 to pursue her goals in Italy.



Broken contracts, unpaid wages, a horrendous injury and drugs cheats were just some of the challenges she faced, even before she lined up to take on her opponents.

Stuart Thom, owner of Bridgend Cycle Centre, described how Nicole would call in at lunch times or after school to order parts or buy an inner-tube to mend a puncture. "Nicole was so driven at a young age, training in all weathers, so it has been a pleasure to follow her career.

"We have the first British Champion's jersey Nicole won in 1996 framed and on display in the shop and hope it inspires other cyclists in the area to follow Nicole's path in cycling."

The book signing and chance to meet Nicole takes place 12pm - 2pm Saturday, December 13 at Bridgend Cycle Centre, Unit 1, Five Bells Road, Bridgend, CF31 3HW. Telephone 01656 766006.

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday December 2, there was a full programme of league matches.

The Llanharry Working Men's Club remain unbeaten, winning away 7-2 against the Old Post Ladies. The Edmondres B regained the second slot by narrowly beating the Hare and Hounds 5-4 while the Highwayman Inn lost 3-6 to the Edmondres A. In the other match the Edmondres C edged past the Farmer's Arms 5-4.

Present league standings after nine matches, are: Llanharry (64 points), Edmondres B (50), Highwayman Inn (48), Edmondres A (42), Hare and Hounds (35), Farmer's Arms (32),

Edmondres C (31) and Old Post Ladies (20).

Next week, Tuesday, December 16, in the last evening of matches before the Christmas and New Year break, the Edmondres Arms will host the first rounds of the CBT.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. Note all teams can register new players until the New Year so there is still time if you wish to play darts this season - get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apns.co.uk.

PJT

Seaview Lads results

JUST as we were making space in the freezers for the glut of fish, results have dropped from bountiful catches to barren weights.

At the last match in November the top seven anglers weighed in almost 100lb between them, while the total weights for the first two matches in December saw less than 6lb of fish landed in total!

Credit must go to the

determined lads that have persevered in spite of the mixed results and a special mention must go to Mickey, who has won two of the last three competitions.

Tonight (December 11) will be an auction night, while the coming weeks should see large attendances as we are fishing for both the Wyndham Page trophy and Eddie Frost cup as part of the Christmas festivities.

We hope that once the old faces rediscover the

joy of angling we will see more anglers on the beach.

Results: November 30
- 1st M Langford 23 lb 6 oz; 2nd G Morgan 18 lb 13 oz; 3rd R Bond 17 lb 08 oz; 4th P Coles 14 lb 15 oz; 5th K Salah 14 lb 01 oz; 6th K Gardner 7 lb 05 oz.

December 2 - 1st T Williams 1 lb 9 oz; 2nd P Coles 1 lb 3 oz; December 7 - 1st M Langford 3 lb 8 oz; 2nd P Coles 0 lb 2 oz.

JC

Llantwit Major under-15s break their Sully hoodoo!

AFTER a shaky start to the season under new management, which resulted in a mixed bag of results to say the least, the Llantwit Major under-15s A squad have over time started to produce the football of previous seasons and gel and perform to the levels that are expected of the reigning cup holders.

The first fixture all the boys look for are the games against Sully and on November 29 we all took the short trip there. After dominating the first half Llantwit's pressure yielded no rewards and we went into the break 0-0.

The only advice given to the boys was to just keep doing what they were doing and within 10 minutes of the second half, against the run of play, Sully took the lead through a well taken free-kick that keeper Joe Baker could do nothing about.

Within five minutes Llantwit were level when Ben Boyd went on a blistering run to leave the Sully defence in his wake, and calmly slotted past the keeper.

Then Lloyd Richards received the ball outside the box after a

clearance from Llantwit's umpteenth corner of the game, calmly looked up and placed the ball in the top corner to the delight of the travelling supporters and players.

The last 20 minutes felt like a hour and with Sully pushing for an equaliser the game had chances at both ends with Llantwit guilty of missing a few and Joe Baker, determined to not be beaten twice, pulled off some jaw-dropping saves that had Sully parents rubbing their eyes. It was pure joy when the referee brought the game to a close as Llantwit had beaten Sully for the first time in seven years of trying - the jinx was no more!

Seven days we faced Cadroxton Dragons, the team that lost only one game in the whole of last season - which was to Llantwit Major in the cup final.

With only one substitute and playing down the slope in the first half with the sun on their backs, the lads started on the front foot and quickly took command of the match with some sublime interchanging in the middle of the pitch by Lewis Brown.

It didn't take long to get the opener when, after some beautiful one touch football, Ben Boyd popped up unmarked to slot home

the first which was followed quickly by the second from the boots of Liam Butcher, playing in an unfamiliar striker role.

Not content with just one, Liam produced his magic again for his second and the third of the game, and by now the players started to believe that this was the match to prove to themselves that they can beat anyone playing football the right way.

Ben Boyd doubled his tally to make it 4-0 and no halftime teamtalk was required with all 11 players knowing only half the job was done.

The defence of Ryan Molton, James Cook, Declan Ellis and Lloyd Richards cut out any chance of losing their clean sheet and it was more of the same with Moses Gee and Angus Mitchell, who never stop running, causing chaos for their midfield.

Lewis Brown finished off a move that would not be out of place in any Academy game to make the final score Llantwit Major 5, Cadroxton Dragons 0. Man of the match went to Cole Baker with a faultless performance.

The team's next match is away to Pencoedre Panthers.

DB

COMPETITION AT SCHOOLS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

THE Vale Council's 5x60 team hosted a basketball tournament across two days last week for pupils from schools across the Vale.

A total of 18 teams, consisting of over 150 school pupils turned up for the three competitions, years 7 and 8 boys, years 7 and 8 girls, and year-9 and 10 boys.

Teams from Barry, Stanwell, Llantwit Major, Bryn Hafren, St Richard Gwyn, Bro Morgannwg, St Cyres and Cowbridge schools all competed for a place in the regional rounds to be hosted by Rhondda Cynon Taff.

St Richard Gwyn

reached the final round of all three competitions, winning the years 9 and 10 boys' competition against Barry Comprehensive on December 2 at Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.

It was Cowbridge who emerged victorious at Cogan Leisure Centre two days later, winning both the girls' competition and the years 7 and 8 boys' competition.

The 5x60 scheme aims to get secondary school pupils more active more often by encouraging them to exercise for at least 60 minutes, five days a week. The Welsh Government funded initiative is run by Sport Wales and is supported locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

Bridge results

RESULTS at the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club were as follows:

November 24 - 1st Kevin Maddox & Mike Best 63.07%, 2nd Graham Jones & Irene Thomas 61.93%, 3rd John Henson & Geoff Tinkler 61.65%.

December 1 (Celtic Sims) - 1st Tony Ratcliff & Mark Roderick 74.60%, 2nd Dave Barwood & Jane Brook 61.46%, 3rd Alan Lewis & Terry Evans 55.56%.

December 8 - 1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 64.06%, 2nd Sara Bartlett & Helen Barrie 60.80%, 3rd Jane Brook & John Henson 56.82%. LE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

NEW STAMP DUTY SET TO CHANGE THE LOCAL PROPERTY MARKET, SAY EWEMOVE!

WITH the surprise change to the stamp duty system, there is likely to be a fresh boost to the housing market and change the way properties have been traditionally priced.

Buyers and sellers alike will benefit by understanding the change of fortune this brings, advise the rapidly growing sales and letting agent, EweMove.com.

With this in mind, Richard and Karen from EweMove were quick to let their sellers know of the changes to the system and explain the key elements to help buyers and sellers get grips with the changes.

What is stamp duty? STAMP duty land tax, to give its full name, is a tax you pay when you buy a home. It doesn't matter if it is somewhere you hope to live or a buy-to-let property.

All that matters is how much the property costs. The tax is applied according to what you pay.

Under the old 'slab system' the entire cost of a property was taxed according to the highest band it fell into; with sharp increases at each threshold.

The new system is structured in the same way as income tax, which will mean there are no big leaps in duty and house sales will no longer cluster just under each of the thresholds.

The old 'slab' system (based on entire cost): 0 per cent payable on properties up to £125,000, now no SDLT payable at all on properties up to £125,000.

Old - 1 per cent on properties from £125,001 to £250,000; new - the first £125,000 to be free of SDLT, then payable at 2 per cent on the portion up to £250,000.

Old - 3 per cent on properties between £250,001 and £500,000; new - as above, then payable at 5 per cent on the portion up to £925,000.

Old - 4 per cent on properties between £500,001 and £1m; new - as above, then at 10 per cent on the portion up to £1.5m.

Old - 5 per cent on properties between £1m and £2m; new - as above, then payable at 12 per cent on the portion over that amount. 7 per cent payable on properties above £2m.

Example: A house sale of £125,950 would have attracted £1,259 SDLT under the old rates.

Under the new? - Just £19.

Is this good news for everyone?

RICHARD and Karen from EweMove believe the majority will be better off, as long as price increases don't outweigh the tax benefits.

The bands aren't being renewed again until 2020 and with rising house prices this means that many

homes will fall into higher tax bands before then anyway, which would mean higher tax bills under the old system.

The Treasury says that everyone buying a house costing less than £937,000 will benefit! Or about 98 per cent of Welsh households as the average cost of a house in Wales is £171,000.

In the Vale, this will mean the range of property prices coming to market will likely 'smooth out' with no 'clumping' effect at the margins of the stamp duty thresholds.

All in all this will prove a positive move for the market and one which first-time buyers, 'second-steppers', buy-to-let investors and, indeed, all property buyers and sellers can benefit from and particularly with a helping-hand from EweMove, Vale of Glamorgan. Directors Richard Cook and Karen Treweek said:

"We are very aware that even with the added boost of a fairer stamp duty system, moving home can still be a stressful time; which is why we go out of our way to provide an unparalleled VIP service, offering help and support every step of the way from providing amazing photographs, 3D floor plans and carefully crafted marketing descriptions to accompanied viewings and advice and support to the end of the sale completion.

"With 95 per cent of buyers now viewing online, properties are listed

on all of the major property portals generating 183 million buyer searches each month.

EweMove's 'Mammoth Marketing' approach means that sellers' homes get more interest more quickly. And EweMove operate a 24/7 service, making sure that a viewing enquiry or purchase offer is never lost.

"The award-winning Ewe-reka system is the world's first only automated computer system and enables prospective buyers to book their own viewing appointments online in viewing slots that have been pre-arranged with the seller.

"It even emails and texts confirmation of viewing appointments so that all the details are handily stored and sends reminders as well.

"This really is an unparalleled level of customer service not offered anywhere else.

"With such a range of tools at their disposal, and with the added advantage of an equitable stamp duty at last in place EweMove look well-placed to provide a Premium One-stop Property Market service to the people of Barry and the Vale in 2015 and beyond."

For further information contact Richard or Karen on 01446 349349 or e mail Rich@EweMove.com. You can also visit us at www.ewemove.com/barry.



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Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr R J M Harris – **Penybryn Bottom Farm, Llanmaes** – Construction of new multi-purpose barn.
 Mr Sam Azraq – **45 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Replacement windows.
 Monsolar IQ – **Land off Cwrt Yr Ala Road, Michaelston Le Pit** – Siting of a not fixed container to store material for the operation and maintenance of the PV Plant.
 Mr Ben Lawrence – **71 Queens Road, Penarth** – Three storey and single storey rear extension.
 Mrs Nichola Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – Change of use from current agricultural store to proposed cow shed.
 Mr Mark Holt – **The Old Vicarage, Wick Road, St Brides Major** – Renovation/replacement of windows in Grade II listed building.
 Mr Graham Norris – **1 Pwll y Min Crescent, Peterston Super Ely** – Removal of render and sprayed textured coating and replacement with new render. Removal of existing double glazed white UPVC double glazing windows with revised glazing pattern.
 Mr Yagari Wahidullah – **Former site of Broad Street Motors, Broad Street, Barry** – Car wash facility (attended hand wash).
 Mrs Frances Butler – **The War Memorial, The Twyn, Dinas Powys** – An additional small bronze plaque to be replaced underneath the existing First World War plaque.
 Mr Paul Ford – **1 Grange Avenue, Wenvoe** – Ground floor rear/side extension.
 Mr Terry Donavon – **56 Redlands Avenue, Penarth** – Renewal of planning permission 2010/00075/FUL change of use of single dwelling to two flats with associated works.
 Mr and Mrs Mark Tyso – **76 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – Rebuild of existing garage complete with games room to rear.
 Ms Marjorie Evans – **9 John Batchelor Way, Penarth** – Proposed glazed balcony to front and rear with window modifications and glass canopy over front

door.
 Mrs Emma Harney – **18 Bramble Avenue, Barry** – Construction of first floor extension over a single storey existing structure.
 Mr Guy Sillet – **The Gymnasium, 8 Paget Road, Barry** – Extension to rear of top floor flat upon roof to first floor level below.
 Dr Gavin Clague – **Rosedew, Bonvilston** – Removal of existing front boundary wall and replacing with higher wall to span front boundary of house incorporating pedestrian and driveway wooden gates.
 Clear Channel UK Ltd – **Premier Inn, Triangle site, Hood Road, Barry** – One double advertising unit fully integrated into bus shelter.
 Connells – **52 High Street, Cowbridge** – Change of use from A1 shops to A2 financial and professional services. New fascia advertisement sign and replacement of the existing shopfront to match the existing.
 Mr and Mrs Geoff Jones – **9 Upper Cosmeston Farm, Penarth** – Second storey extension to the property.
 Ms Cheryl Johnson – **29 Plymouth Road, Barry Island** – Change of use from property from guesthouse back into dwelling house.
 Mr Keith Thomas – **Land at Frampton situated off Cowbridge Road, Llantwit Major** – Construction of two wooden stables on a concrete base.
 Mr Gerald Leeke – **Hensol Castle, Hensol Castle Park, Hensol** – 1. To remove the apex only of the vestibule roof to allow the proposed flat green roof to be extended over the vestibule to avoid large bulkheads and internal gutters and to meet the existing castle walls; 2. To extend the proposed corridor roof over the existing porch as its roof is not waterproof. The new corridor roof will then meet the original walls of the castle.
 Mr and Mrs Bernard – **28 Cog Road, Sully** – Alterations to previously approved planning application 2014/00416/FUL, including new single

storey pool room.
 36 Design – **The Friendly Dental Practice, 212 Holton Road, Barry** – Proposed change of use from former dentist (D1 use) to part ground floor ancillary use and conversion of upper floors to three apartments with refurbishment of one coach house (C3 use).
 Tesco Stores Ltd – **Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff** – T1 Ash, remove two lower limbs; T2 Beech, remove 11 small lateral limbs; T3 Ash, crown lift three limbs; T4 Beech, remove two lower lateral limbs; T5 Oak, reduce from building and crown lift three limbs; T6 Willow, remove lower limb and clear lamppost; T7 Hazel, coppice; T8 Willow, remove upper limb; T9 Beech, crown lift.
 Ms Belinda Bauer – **West Barn, Moulton, Barry** – Addition of new rooflights and new roof windows.
 Mr Mark Petherick – **7 Lakeside, The Knap, Barry** – Proposed single storey extension to front of property creating extended living room.
 Mr Paul Hutchinson – **Dunraven Bay, Bridgend** – Refurbish and reinstate the slipway for onshore/offshore activities such as kite surfing and kayaking. Slipway will not be used for activities that require boats with engines.
 Dr Paul Knoyle – **6 Ger y Llan, St Nicholas** – Reduce and reshape Whitebeam.
 HSBC Banking Plc – **61 High Street, Cowbridge** – Proposed new ATM to replace existing ATM in same location, minor adjustments around aperture to allow new model to fit.
 Mrs Mary Colwill – **24 Nelson Road, Barry** – Proposed extension and roof conversion.
 Mr Luke Davies – **Site of the former quarry, Leckwith Road, Llandough** – Removal of Conditions 25, 26 and 27 of planning permission 2013/00632/FUL.
 Waterstone Homes Ltd – **Fox and Hounds Car Park, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major** – Proposed hoarding for the advertisement of 'The Barns'

development at Penylan Farm, St Brides Major.
 Waterstone Homes Ltd – **Fox and Hounds Car Park, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major** – Proposed temporary structure to accommodate sales office (12 month period).
 Mr Denis Evans – **5 Croft Lane, Southerndown** – Variation of condition 1 of planning approval 209/00426/FUL.
 Sinclairs Law – **Cogan Hotel, 51 Hewell Street, Cogan** – Change of use from A1 retail to C3 dwelling house.
 Vale of Glamorgan Council Flying Start – **Ty Robin Goch, Robins Lane, Barry** – Minor extension to main hall of building for Children's Services.
 Vale of Glamorgan Council Flying Start – **Colcot Junior and Infant School, Florence Avenue, Barry** – Erection of a new prefabricated building for early years teaching including site works.
 Mr Lyndon Haberfield – **Plot 77, Fontygary Road, Rhosce** – Proposed detached four-bedroom dwelling with adjoining double garage to front.
 Mr Keith Terrar – **63 Heol y Frenhines, Dinas Powys** – Two storey house side extension with a single storey utility room and rear single storey dining room.
 Penlllyn Estate Farm – **Great House Farm, Penlllyn, Cowbridge** – New building.
 HSBC Banking Plc – **1 Herbert Terrace, Penarth** – Proposed new ATM to replace existing ATM in same location, minor adjustments around aperture to allow new model to fit.
 Mr and Mrs James – **1 Carne Terrace, Llyswoerney** – Single storey extension.
 Mr Alexander Easton – **11 Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys** – Cut back hedges, demolish wall in part and excavate soil to provide a car port for two vehicles. Build a rendered blockwork retaining wall and build a car port with Dutch Barn style roof and timber weatherboard elevations to the back and sides.
 Mrs S Scott – **113 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Proposed single storey rear extension and new garage (previously

approved, resubmitted with alterations to roof of garage).
 Mr Chris Griffiths – **Pennant Farm, Llanecarfan** – Construction of two storey side and rear extensions.
 Mrs Susan Joseph – **Court House, Tair Cross, Ewenny** – Proposed first floor extension to form master bedroom and bathroom.
 Peter Alan – **52 High Street, Cowbridge** – Change of use from class A1 shops to A2 financial and professional services, and for the replacement of the existing shopfront.
 Mr Andrew Butteriss – **9-9a Cliff Street, Penarth** – A dwelling house used as two flats for more than 10 years.
 Mr Jonathan Shaw – **35 Millbrook Heights, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing entrance hall and utility room and construction of a new entrance porch and play room.
 Mrs Allyson Hunt – **45 Hinchliff Avenue, Barry** – Proposed single storey annex to existing domestic dwelling to rear.
 Ms N Russell – **292 Gladstone Road, Barry** – To take an existing outbuilding including conservatory and construct new single extension for sun lounge and shower room.
 Mrs Michelle Proctor – **20 High Street, Penarth** – Proposed alterations to existing dormer window and additional dormer window.
 Mrs B Bowen-Jones – **Hillcrest, 40 Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – Proposed alterations to include new roof dormer windows, porch and terrace.
 Mr James Mordecai – **Rear of Nant Canna, Treoes** – Conversion to residential use of existing quasi-dilapidated barn in Treoes.
 Mr A Burns – **12 Laburnum Way, Dinas Powys** – Fell Oak tree to ground level.
 Mr Damian Evans – **67 John Batchelor Way, Penarth** – Remove rear ground floor sash window and replace with patio door to rear garden.

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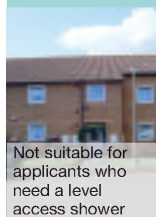
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This number is not a bidding line for properties advertised in this advert.

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Public Notices

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01343/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Remove existing glazed aluminium shop front and replace with traditional wooden shop front with glazing
Location/Lleoliad: 109, Glebe Street, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01355/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: One replacement dwelling, including all external works and access from the highway
Location/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Conservation Area Consent/ Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01356/CAC
Proposal/Cynnig: 1 No. replacement dwelling, including all external works and access from the highway
Location/Lleoliad: 12, Park Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01335/RES
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two new dwelling with revised vehicular access
Location/Lleoliad: 74, Murch Road, Dinas Powys
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhedredig: Affecting Little Orchard, Grade II

Application (s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01300/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed demolition of existing buildings and construction of 21 self contained apartments with on site parking and amenity facilities
Location/Lleoliad: Barry Dock Conservative Club, Station Street, Barry

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01358/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of the existing Dolphin bar/restaurant and redevelopment for 25 residential units, commercial uses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: The Dolphin, Friars Road, Barry

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2014/01358/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Demolition of the existing Dolphin bar/restaurant and redevelopment for 25 residential units, commercial uses and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: The Dolphin, Friars Road, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 11 December, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Birthday Notices

Isla Bailey
It's your 11th Birthday!
Hugs and kisses from Mum, Dad, Callum, James & Tommy Truscars
x x x

Eltemae Williams
Happy 13th Birthday
You are now officially a teenager!
Lots of Love Mum, Charlie, Nannie and Bampa
x x x

Bethan Thomas
16th December
Happy Birthday to our darling daughter Bethan
We couldn't be prouder of the gorgeous, talented and hardworking young lady you have become. Enjoy your day and celebrations.
Love always Mum, Dad, Dan, Cats and Albi x x x x

Family Notices

EDWARDS
Lynda
Tim and Peter Edwards and grandchildren would like to express their heartfelt thanks for everyone who attended Lynda's funeral and for the cards and messages of condolences they received at this sad time.

CATTLE
David Ernest
Suddenly on November 30th - David, well known as "Dave Taff Tools", devoted husband of Jayne, much loved Dad of Helen, Robin and Alison.
David will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him "For Always Having True Grit"
Resting at Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at The Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Saturday, 13th December at 10.30am followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry.
Family flowers only - donations if desired may be made at the service to Mind and The Stroke Association in memory of David. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

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Thank You

Currie
Paula & Gerald would like to thank everyone for the kind wishes, cards & gifts we received on the occasion of our golden wedding anniversary, also for making our party such a memorable evening.
Thank you everyone.

Anniversary

Diamond Wedding Celebrations
Many congratulations to **Brian & Valerie Gilvear** who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on **11th December 2014**
Brian and Valerie have lived in the Vale for over 50 years. Over the years they have been very involved in many local activities. Valerie was a Cub Scout Leader in Llantwit Major for 25 years earning her Long Service Award and both Brian and Valerie helped Conway Hawkins to run Colwinston Youth Club for over 25 years.
Happy Anniversary Mum and Dad with much love hugs and kisses from your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
X

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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Christmas Messages

Due to the recent sad loss of my dear wife Audrey Mary Thomas, I feel unable to cope with the sending of greeting cards.
Instead I intend to donate to the **Alzheimers Research Society** in memory of my dear late wife.
Jim Thomas

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Saints draw in 10 goal thriller

BARRY Saints were held to a 5-5 draw with league rivals Canton Cross Vaults.

The squad, affected by injuries and unavailability, managed to gain a point even though they had the advantage of playing against 10 men for 50 minutes.

Canton were the dominant team for the first 30 minutes, striking the post from a deflected effort, and goalkeeper Nicky Elston spreading himself well to deny Canton an opener.

Canton were then reduced to 10 men when the striker, flagged correctly for offside, used abusive language towards the referee and received his marching orders five minutes before half time.

Saints immediately took advantage after a disastrous bit of defending with the keeper and centre back colliding. Darren Townsend was left with a tap in to the empty net.

Halftime was approaching but Barry increased their lead, Nathan Williams finding space in the box to smash home into the bottom corner; 2-0 and the Saints knew it was theirs to lose.

In the second half Canton looked a completely different side. Fired up, the ball fell to the left winger, who had been out of the game up until this point. He raced down the wing, cut in and seemed to trip over the ball under pressure. The referee deemed the pressure a foul and awarded a controversial penalty which Zaki Misbah converted with ease.

Straight away Canton grabbed a

second with a half volley from James Saddler finding a way through the Saints keeper. This woke the Saints up and they grabbed the lead through Michael Evans after he got on the end of a Nathan Williams cross, converting at the far post. Darren Townsend restored the two-goal advantage, tucking home after breaking through leaving the keeper with no chance.

Canton Cross Vaults came straight back and scored from a tight angle through Matt Hibbs. Moments later they scored again; after being given too much space outside the area, Matt Hibbs hit a low accurate shot into the bottom corner.

With the game winding down the game could have gone either way but the Saints dealt what they believed was the final blow.

Nathan Williams picked the ball up out wide, accelerated past his marker and shot from a tight angle, hitting his shot low and hard, beating the keeper at his near post.

With the referee about to blow up Canton had one more attack. The ball was picked up by striker Zaki Misbah who hit a long-range effort which found the bottom corner with the last kick of the game.

A disappointing result considering for 50 minutes Canton had 10 men, but with the game in their hands, Saints were unlucky to only walk away with a point.

GL

Liam caps off great year with award



ON Saturday, December 6, at Cardiff Golf Club, the W.F.K.O. kickboxing club held their annual awards evening and Liam Rees (17) from Cadoxton, Barry attended.

There were many awards given out throughout the evening to deserving students, but one student in particular who has shown outstanding talent was Liam. He was awarded his 2nd degree Black Belt. Liam was also presented a shield by Mal Johns, president for W.O.M.A.A Wales, for 'sponsored fighter of 2014'.

Liam has had his most successful year in 2014, winning all fights he has entered in advanced boys and mens 60kg and under. Liam began the year in May by winning his first title belt. This young fighter showed outstanding skills and talent to win the Welsh Kickboxing Union title fight.

In July, Liam took first place in The WOMAA

Split decision as Hockey Club seconds grind win

PENARTH Hockey Club's 2nd XI again provided the high point of the weekend, grinding out a win against Bridgend while the firsts continued to struggle for reward in the latest round of games in the Davis Wood Hockey League.

Without a point in their past two games, the 1st XI were hoping that a home fixture with a strengthened side, against fellow strugglers Cirencester would provide a turnaround.

The game started brightly at a sun-drenched Barry Sports Centre, with Penarth enjoying most of the early possession. Unlike recent weeks, they made the pressure count through a typical Chris Baker run and strike to take the lead, and quickly doubled the advantage thanks to Gareth Hurman's 'composite leg', the first of several 'interesting' calls that failed to serve either team in their efforts.

Despite the double blow, Cirencester struck back to make the score 2-1 midway through the half, but the deficit was only briefly reduced before Baker slotted a penalty corner under the right foot of the otherwise-impressive 17-year old Cirencester goalkeeper.

Penarth failed to hold on to the two-goal gap, however, as another goal for the visitors completed the first half action and kept them in contention for the second period.

Although they held the upper hand heading into the break, the second half proved Penarth's undoing as the period descended into an all-too-familiar scenario of ill-discipline.

With two yellow cards reducing the hosts to nine men, Cirencester seized the initiative and, clearly sensing victory, capitalised in clinical fashion. Four unanswered goals transformed the match in the Gloucestershire side's favour, and condemned Penarth to their third straight defeat.

The result was a particularly tough pill for the Vale side to swallow and, although the middle of the table remains closely-matched, they now find themselves at the wrong end of the pack going into the second half of the season.

BRIDGEND 'B' 1-2 PENARTH 'A'
Penarth's 2nd XI headed into their first December fixture buoyed by possibly their best performance of the season to date and, facing bottom of the table Bridgend, sensed a rare opportunity to string

together consecutive wins.

Despite the relatively late start in Pencoed, conditions remained ideal for hockey, and Penarth started strongly, taking the game to their hosts and looking every inch the better side.

However, even with a strengthened front line, the visitors remained wasteful in front of goal, and it took several chances before an alert Rob Harrison pounced on a rebound to finally break the deadlock.

Perhaps believing a little too much in their dominance, Penarth failed to build on the breakthrough, wasting possession in midfield and gradually allowing Bridgend to exert unwarranted pressure on the defence.

Some keen rearguard action, with goalkeeper Jason Harris called on to make a couple of sharp saves, kept the score at 1-0 for much of the half, but Bridgend were not to be denied and, catching their visitors unprepared at a penalty corner, pulled level just before the interval.

Some stern words at halftime refocused the Penarth side and the second period opened in similar fashion to the first, with the Bears regaining control of the midfield and putting increased pressure on the Bridgend goal.

Once again, however, they found a goalkeeper in inspired form, although that could not disguise the number of chances that were still being wasted.

Penarth eventually retook the lead during a series of penalty corners, when Craig Llewellyn overcame a mis-controlled pass to find a

gap between defenders on the line, but again the visitors could not build on the lead and allowed their hosts to hope for a share of the points.

Penarth's defence was again called upon to resist greater pressure in the final 10 minutes, with Graeme Jones and Nathan Townsend underlining solid games as they helped preserve the slight advantage.

Relieved to come away with the full three points, while acknowledging that

Bridgend probably deserved a share, Penarth confirmed seventh spot in a De Cymru 2 table that is gradually becoming more strung out with two games remaining before the Christmas/New Year break.

League games continue this weekend (Saturday, December 13), with the 1st XI hosting a Cardiff Medics side sharing the same number of points, and the seconds heading back across county borders to take on a Gwent side currently propping up the division after slipping below Bridgend on goal difference at the weekend.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from: club secretary Dave Stevens via: d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk

CL

SPORTS BEAT THE LEAGUE LEADERS

THANKS to all the supporters and players of Sully Sports RFC for last weekend's fixture when we welcomed Llandrindod Wells.

A great team effort from all players secured a hard-fought win against the league leaders.

Fierce defence and turnovers from the visitors ensured Sports had to work hard to cross the try line, but indeed patience was rewarded with a try from Jake Williams.

The visitors showed why they are top of the league by throwing the ball around but a penalty

try was awarded and duly converted by Jake Williams; however, not to be outdone, the visitors got themselves on the scoreboard with two well-worked tries, setting up an entertaining second half.

Sports took a while to get started after the break, but started to build momentum and patterns seemed to emerge with strong runs from the backs and forwards.

It was a delight to watch from the sidelines and many complimentary words were heard, all encouraging to the coach and players.

John Thomas managed to get on the

end of a good driving maul to secure a well-worked try. The game then flowed between both teams trying to secure the win.

Again Sports showed some vision and skill, picking the ball from their own 22 where Damion Huggins went on a darting run. However, this came to nothing and the Sports held on for a well deserved win, 17-10.

This week sees a cup match at home, followed by league action away to Cathays.

Team: Jody Velda, Ben Such, Adam Wheeler, Sam Bowditch, Jamie Griffith, Peter Brown, Alex Szuchnik, John Thomas, Jon Blake, Curtis Miller, Rhys Manford, Scott Williams, Dai Harris, Jake Williams, Matthew Phillips, Lee Walters, Dave Weston, Damion Huggins.

Anyone looking to start playing or return to playing come along on a Tuesday and Thursday night.

GI

Wolves' bite too much for Cowbridge

ON a brisk winter's morning at Bryn Y Don, Dinas Powys Wolves under-12s entertained their Vale neighbours Cowbridge.

Having grown up through the mini section together, both sets of teams have played countless training matches against each and the spirit shown by the players Saturday was there to see.

Dinas started on the front foot attacking in numbers but failing to use the width and the visitors managed to get bodies behind the ball.

As the half wore on the home side took advantage of some good

interplay around the edge of the box and opened the scoring. The second goal followed shortly before Cowbridge pulled one back just before the break.

After a few words at the break, Dinas came out and were more patient with the ball and played their passing game. Goals came thick and fast and were spread around the team.

A very good performance from the Villagers and credit to Cowbridge who, with a depleted squad, gave everything for their coaches.

Man of the match was awarded to J Moss.

LS

Sully Bridge Club results

SULLY Bridge Club results for the week ending December 6 were:

Monday, December 1: North/South - First, Judy Collins/Shirley Powell 58.14; second,

Joan Thompson/Sheila Kavanagh 57.39; third, Val Hetheridge/Norman Ryley 55.49.

East/West - First, Sean MacDougall/Italo Basiletti 64.96; second, Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones 59.09; third, Mary Blackwell/Peter Blackwell 53.03.

Wednesday, December 3: North/South - First, Carol James/Alan James 59.65; second, Judy Collins/Jayne Greatrex 58.77; third, Shirley Powell/Helen Davies 58.62.

East/West - First, Tish Beere/Anita Charles 58.46; second, Judith Owen/Helen Jordan 55.13; third, Pat James/Penny Jones 54.62.

EK

Barrivale Bridge Club

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for December 2.

First, Denis Mottram and Kay Dyer 70.42 per cent; **second** Jane Brook and Mark Roderick 63.75 per cent; **3rd** Mick Green and Noelle Bond 57.50 per cent.

Denis Mottram and Kay Dyer also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Dave Reed

Brynhill ladies have Swag!



Hilary West shows her Christmas Swag!

THE Brynhill ladies had a very entertaining evening with Hilary West, as she demonstrated how to make a Christmas Door Swag.

She efficiently filled the base with foliage, cones, baubles and ribbon producing a stunning display. The ladies took more time, with much exchanging of foliage and help with the 'accessories', also making some beautiful swags. Good fun and a decoration to take home, thank you Hilary.

Competition results: October 28 - Carole Allen, 18 points; November 18 - Linda Hewlett, 18 points; December 2 - Liz Brown 20 points.

CH

ST ATHAN GOLF CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL PRESENTATION AND AWARDS EVENING



PRESENTATION night at St Athan Golf Club is always a well attended event with an array of crystal trophies being awarded to the golfers who have been successful in competitions throughout the year.

This year was no exception, the table was laden with crystal alongside the club's silverware.

The prestigious competition boards have been updated with the names of the 2014 winners and now become part of the club's history.

The evening started with the presentation of cheques to charity; the ladies' captain Jenny Young had selected Marie Curie as her preferred charity for the year and was delighted to present its representative, Sarah, with a cheque for £860 to add to the £1,030 donated earlier in the year.

Club captain Roger Davidge handed his £1,220 cheque to Andy Thomas to facilitate the continuity of GLAZE prostate cancer treatment. GLAZE has been significant in funding the centre of excellence for Green Light Laser treatment at the Princess of Wales hospital, an eminent teaching unit which is headed by Andy himself.

Chairman of play, Gary Bohun took over the proceedings for the rest of the evening, with the junior organiser Simon Hampson and ladies' competition member Carolyn McKenzie announcing the winners, and Roger, Jenny and the club president, Paul Lindsay presenting the trophies to the worthy winners.

There are two awards presented each year with the members not knowing the recipients until they are announced; the first is the club person of the year, sponsored by the New York Deli, and the club committee voted Pete Purnell for the tireless and ongoing work he selflessly carries out in and around the clubhouse.

The playing committee has the decision on the Kyle Trophy recipient; this is awarded to the golfer

who fulfils the following criteria: a) achieves a significant handicap reduction b) achieves a great deal of success in all competitions entered c) in the opinion of the committee has been an example to all golfers both on and off the course.

There were several golfers who fell into the above category and after much deliberation, Craig Sherman successfully carried off the title.

For the championship titles, players have to qualify and then endeavour to get through the successive knock-out rounds, culminating in playing on finals day which was held in September.

The junior final, played over 36 holes, saw a tremendous come back from Josh Morgan who was 8 down early in the game, however his fight was not quite enough against Rhodri Miskin who secured the win on the 36th hole.

Liz Thomas graciously accepted defeat to Michelle Bligh in the ladies championship final, a title Liz has held on numerous occasions but a first for Michelle.

There was some hilarity in the clubhouse when BJ Hawkins came forward for the championship runner-up trophy; fellow members are aware that BJ enjoys silence while playing his golf so they applied the same respect when he collected his award!

However it was a standing ovation and thunderous applause that greeted Gerald Thomas as he stepped forward and held aloft the club champion 2014 silver cup.

St Athan Golf Club members are extremely proud of all its competitors and congratulates each and every one of them.

A full list of trophy winners can be found on the club's website, www.rfstathangc.co.uk; the club is also on Facebook where photos can be found.

St Athan Golf Club caters for green fee players but particularly welcomes new playing members. For further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.

CM



Tight victory for the Barry Seconds team

BARRY 2nd XV returned to action following the autumn internationals, with Rumney their formidable visitors.

After a disappointing result last time out, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow reshuffled the pack, making 11 changes from the side that lost to Rhiwbina.

The changes had a positive effect, as the home side came out with all guns blazing, surprising their visitors with their physical approach. Despite Rumney's efforts to negate the Barry pack by opting for passive scrums, the power in the Barry eight was evident early on as there was some good carrying in the tight by James Sullivan, Chris Prosser and Jason Evans.

Fly-half Ashley Adams was able to convert good ball into positive possession and territory, while the heavyweight midfield partnership of Tiernan Scott and Ethan Dicks proved more than a handful for the Rumney defence.

Wing Rhys Knapman saw plenty of the ball early on, but was unable to breach the visitors' defence out wide. The danger signs were not heeded by Rumney, however, and following prolonged Barry pressure, Tiernan Scott punched a hole through the visitors' line to score the first try of the match. Adams failed to add the extras.

Barry continued to crank up the pressure and were now dominating the lineup as well as open play. A Rumney infringement in midfield gave Scott an opportunity to extend the home lead with his boot – an opportunity he did not miss via the bounce off the crossbar.

At the interval Barry were 8-0 up, but the coaching staff were wondering if that was enough with the home side facing up the slope for the second half.

Rumney returned from halftime with renewed vigour, but some superb work in the contact area, most notably from Jake Goodfellow, snuffed out any danger. When the visitors tried to spread the ball out wide, it was stopped dead by solid tackling from the Barry midfield, with Scott and Dicks in unrelenting mood.

The visitors did have two chances to reduce the deficit from kickable penalties, but both sailed wide as the game crept into the last quarter.

Game management became key for the home side and as all four substitutes were brought for extra impetus, Barry held out until the last play of the game when Rumney bagged a consolation try under the posts.

The final score was 8-7 and this was just reward for most determined and accurate performances by the 2nd XV this season. The coaches and players should rightly be congratulated.

The 2nd XV will travel to Cardiff Saracens this weekend for a rearranged cup tie.

TEAM: Mephram; Knapman, Scott, Dicks, Poole; Adams, Williams; Morris, Prosser, Sullivan; Dutton, Rolfe; Goodfellow, Jones ©, J Evans.
Replacements: Thomas, Elsworth, Evans, McCann. Man of the match: Scott.

**BARRY 3RD XV 3
SEA VIEW 33**

BARRY 3rd XV continued their league campaign as they hosted

near neighbours Sea View.

With four players once again dropping out of the match day squad within 24 hours, the job for coach Frank Greig became one of increasing difficulty.

There was a debut for Jordan Clarke at full back, while Greig was also forced to select himself on the bench. The disruptive nature of the preparations showed in their decision making and execution. A well-drilled visiting side saw their opportunity to dominate possession and territory.

Against the slope in the first half, Barry found possession difficult to come by, not helped by some curious decision making by the officials and some naive defending in the contact area.

The home side did manage a solitary penalty kick from the trusty boot of Luke Hewitson before the interval.

The second half saw Barry gain large amounts of territory, but a lack of understanding between the players and poor execution of attacking moves saw the advantage slip away.

As the home side tired Sea View sensed the opportunity to increase their lead and took it with both hands, ending up handsome winners in the local derby.

The 3rd XV will return to action on December 20, away at St Peters.

TEAM: Clarke; Rees, Hewitson, van Birgelen, Fogg; Bailey, Evans; Westall, Ring, Hall; N Thomas, Deyes; Templeman, Jones ©, Cleland.

Replacements: D Thomas, Greig; substitute not used: Chow. Man of the match: Clarke.

KC

'OLD GAFFERS' ROWING IN CELTIC LONGBOATS

Eight members of the Old Gaffers Association pictured before their rowing trip around Jackson's Bay.



ON November 16, the Old Gaffers Association held their AGM at Barry Yacht Club.

Before the AGM, a number of the members had the opportunity to try their hand at sea rowing in the club's Celtic longboats.

The short trip around Jackson's Bay was enough for a first experience and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, with some having thoughts for a return.

The OGA is the National Association for Gaff Rig Sailing, which

has been supporting traditional sailing in the UK and around the world for more than 50 years.

There is an active group in the Cardiff and Glamorgan region, with

regular sailing events throughout the summer, as well as social gatherings at Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and elsewhere.

More information about the Old Gaffers

Association can be found at <http://oga50.org>. Information on sea rowing can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk/html/Rowing.htm.

Jockey Jason makes a sponsorship plea

LIMERICK-born Jason Kiely, a number of promising rides lined-up former conditional jockey, who is for the coming point-to-point season. based at Tim Vaughan's Aberthin He said: "It would be nice if I could yard, is seeking someone from the get a local businessman or woman to Vale to sponsor him, now that he has sponsor me."

Jason, who is 23, and weighs in at 10 stone, can be contacted on winners under rules for Tim, has a 07715621602.

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57 **MERCEDES C180K Coupe 'Sport Edition' Auto** In blue-black metallic, 80,000 miles
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08 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 61,000 miles with a/c etc
£4,995

57 **HYUNDAI i130 Style 2.0 Diesel 5-Dr** In silver, 72,000 miles, nice example
£4,995

55 **MINI Cooper** In black (chilli pack), 17" alloys, host of extras
£4,995

53 **BMW 330 Diesel Sport Touring Auto** In silver with grey leather, nice example at
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55 **MINI One 'Seven Edition'.** In met-red, 73,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc
£4,795

09 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 5-Dr** In black, 39,000 miles with a/c
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58 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr** In met turquoise, 55,000 miles
£4,695

56 **SEAT Toledo 2.0 TDi Stylance Automatic.** In black, 61,000 mile diesel at
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53 **MERCEDES SLK 200 6-Speed** In silver, 89,000 mile convertible at
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07 **FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-Dr.** In ice blue, 47,000 miles with a/c
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£2,695

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Students return with medals galore!



STUDENTS from the Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness returned from the recent TAGB British Tae Kwon Do Championships with a clutch of medals and trophies.

The Championships were held at the University of Worcester and attracted competitors from throughout the UK and Europe. JSTKD's team comprised Josh Edwards, Sean Edwards, Chris Edwards, Lynne Doel, Rhys Doel, Kath Birmingham, Menna Birmingham, Harri Birmingham, Alan Li, Ashton Curnick and Nathan MacIver.

Between them, they competed in a variety of events in both the sparring and patterns categories. The adults led the way initially with Chris Edwards sustaining a cut to the face as he battled hard to come away with the bronze in the Men's Blue Belt division.

Next up was Lynne Doel in the Ladies Blue

Belt division. Lynne was evenly matched with her opponent but some well placed punches helped her on her way to claim the bronze.

Nathan MacIver, competing in the Men's Green Belt division, was unlucky not to join Chris in a medal position, having fought well in the earlier rounds.

Undeterred, he made up for it as he took the bronze in the Men's Green Belt Tag Team event.

Not to be outdone in the junior Tag Team events were brother and sister Harri and Menna Birmingham, who won silver and bronze respectively as they fought alongside their team mates in the red belt events.

However, the biggest drama of the day came in one of the last individual events that took place. Fighting in the Boys Black Belt division, Alan Li took to the floor in his first match at heavyweight level.

Despite facing some formidable competition, Alan remained focused throughout, pulling off a spectacular spinning

hook kick that saw his opponent being knocked out as he made impact.

This caused the match to be halted temporarily as the medics were called and resulted in the unfortunate competitor being taken out of the arena in a wheelchair, to allow him time to recover away from the glare of the spectators.

Despite this, Alan maintained his concentration and poise as he entered the final. He again produced some inspired moves against a more experienced fighter but eventually was narrowly beaten into the silver position.

After collecting his trophy Alan continued in fine form as he went on to win silver as part of the 'Welsh Dragons' Tag Team.

JSTKD has classes for all abilities starting from three years up to adults. Beginners of all ages are very welcome and several classes are suitable for parents and children to train alongside each other. Full details can be found at www.jstkd.co.uk.

The picture above shows members of the team; back row - Kath Birmingham, Alan Li, Ashton Curnick, Chris Edwards. Front row - Menna Birmingham, Josh Edwards, Harri Birmingham, Sean Edwards. Not pictured - Lynne Doel, Rhys Doel and Nathan MacIver.

VW

Dinas Powys FC are beaten by local rivals

DESPITE Barry Town United being top of the Division 2 table, it was Dinas Powys who took the game to Barry and had them camped in their own half for much of the first 20 minutes.

A cross from Luke Swaffield in the first couple of minutes was gathered by Barry's keeper Dan Bradley and this was followed in the sixth minute by Keiron James dispossessing a defender and laying the ball off to King Junior Mwedzo, whose shot

from an acute angle hit the side netting.

Barry had a half-chance when, from a throw in, striker Anthony Nagi got a shot away which Dinas keeper Alex Hales gathered but it was Dinas at this stage keeping the ball better and they forced three corners on the trot before Barry finally cleared the danger to break away down the right wing with Theo Richards, Rhys James and Jamie Bradford all involved, but in the end Hales managed to grab the ball.

A further chance came Barry's way,

Bradford playing Nagi in but his effort was well wide of the left upright. However, despite the early dominance by Dinas it was Barry who opened the scoring when Hales came to gather a free kick by Paul McClean and didn't get anywhere near it, leaving Ryan Evans to head into an empty net for the opener on 20 minutes.

Dinas kept plugging away and a good cross from Ben Ah-Mun found Carlos Indjai in a 'one on one' situation with Bradley who rushed off his line to smother the danger as Indjai was about to lob him. Keiron James (who was having a fine game) then got a shot away which hit a defender and went out for another Dinas corner, which Barry eventually managed to clear after some determined pressure by the home side.

The hosts were then awarded a free kick from 30 yards which Nicky Bruce took hard and low, the ball going straight through to Bradley to collect. Hales was then called into action after a clearance by James Marr was intercepted by Nagi to bring a good save from the Dinas keeper.

Ben Ah-Mun was then put through one on one with Bradley but again the experienced Barry keeper just got to the ball first. Mwedzo was then fouled close to the right touch line, Bruce putting the free kick onto the head of Atif Bashir but his effort was off target

and right on halftime Dinas were made to pay for not taking any of their chances when Rhys James played Nagi in. His first shot cannoned back to him off the left post but he made no mistake the second time to give Barry a somewhat flattering 2-0 lead at the interval.

The visitors forced a couple of early corners which the Dinas defence dealt with and, with just four minutes of the second period gone, Dinas pulled a goal back. Ben Ah-Mun was played in on wide on the left, he beat his marker and fired in a low curling shot which hit the inside of the far post and went in to give the home side a lifeline.

Barry were beginning to look dangerous again and Nagi put in an excellent cross which was over Hales' head but Nicky Bruce swept the ball out for a corner as the Barry front men closed in. The game was end to end at this stage and Indjai whipped in a cross which Ben Ah-Mun got his head to but it was just wide of the post.

From a Barry corner the ball came out to Evans but, despite hitting a powerful effort, it was just over the bar.

A sweeping move from Dinas involving Luke Swaffield, Sam Johnson and Indjai produced a corner which was unproductive and a speculative shot from 30 yards by Ah-Mun was off target, although

Dinas were still matching their high-flying opponents, the only difference being Barry were more clinical in front of goal. A cross by Johnson ended with a looping header by Indjai which Bradley took at full stretch under his cross-bar.

Then disaster struck for Dinas with just five minutes remaining when Swaffield was adjudged, somewhat harshly the Dinas contingent felt, to have brought a Barry player down in the box, the referee pointing to the spot. Rhys James took the penalty and tucked it just inside the post despite Hales guessing the right way to make it 3-1.

Dinas then brought on three substitutes with Mamadu Banguraso, Rhodri Foote and James Alloway replacing Ah-Mun, Swaffield and Mwedzo, but time ran out and, despite the scoreline, manager Lee Saunders was proud of his young side who put in a gutsy performance.

Squad: 1 Alex Hales, 2 Luke Swaffield, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 James Marr, 5 Steve Provis (c), 6 Atif Bashir, 7 Keiron James, 8 Sam Johnson, 9 King Junior Mwedzo, 10 Ben Ah-Mun, 11, Carlos Indjai, 12 Mamadu Banguraso, 14 Rhodri Foote, 15 James Alloway.

On Saturday, December 13 Dinas travel to take on Llanern with a 2pm kick off.

PK

SHANE WINS BEACH RACE



SHANE JONES has only just turned six, but has had the bug for motor bikes from the age of three.

He lives in Barry and goes to St Andrews Church in Wales School, Dinas Powys.

On October 19, the Weston-super-Mare beach race was open to the six to 10 year olds. He won it. This was the first time for him to do a beach race and only his seventh race ever.

Shane intends to continue his passion for motor bike racing and will be entering the British and Welsh Championships in 2015. He will be back at Weston-super-Mare next year to defend his title.

Welsh-American boxing rivalry chronicled in book

WELSH boxing greats gathered in Cardiff recently for a special evening to celebrate the proud 120-year boxing heritage between Wales and America, and to launch a new book that chronicles over 60 epic encounters since 1884.

Ring royalty in the form of Enzo Maccarinelli, Colin Jones, Nicky Piper, Gary Lockett, Gavin Rees, Robbie Regan, and Eddie Avoth recalled the big fight nights against star-studded American opposition to a packed audience at the Welsh Institute of Sport to mark the publication of 'Dragons vs Eagles - Wales vs America in the Boxing Ring' by renowned boxing journalist Gareth Jones.

From the glitz of Las Vegas, to the iconic Yankee Stadium in New York, Welsh boxers have fought toe-to-toe against the best that America could produce and on many occasions came out on top.

Speaking about his book, Gareth Jones said:

"Wales has always punched above its weight in the boxing ring. The United States, with 100 times the population, may have been the dominant player in the sport, but St David has done remarkably well against Goliath over the 120 years since the first bout in 1894.

"The Americans drooled over 'Peerless' Jim Driscoll and Jimmy Wilde also demonstrated his right to be considered one of the greatest of all time."

The book features a host of famous fights which have gone into national folklore such as when Tommy Farr fought Joe Louis in 1937; Colin Jones' two battles against Milton McCrory in 1983; and the tragic fight between Johnny Owen and Lupe Pintor in 1980 which ended in the death of the Merthyr Matchstick.

Gareth Jones added: "In more recent years, Joe Calzaghe's masterclass against Jeff Lacy finally convinced the American doubters, before he completed his unbeaten career by beating legends Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones, Jr. in front of their own people."

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A second half comeback keeps Barry in contention

AFTER five weeks without a game because of the autumn internationals, it was back to business for the Barry 1st XV on Saturday when they travelled to Maes Gwyn for a league match against old rivals Taffs Well RFC.

The expectations of the travelling Barry supporters for this fixture were naturally very high because of the team's success this season, where they have been unbeaten in seven outings with six wins and a draw.

Taffs Well, by comparison, have only won two of their matches this season and so on paper it looked very promising for the visitors.

From the kick off Barry started the game very well and put immediate pressure on the home side.

After five minutes or so play the Taffs Well backs were ruled offside at a scrum and the Barry outside half Einar Scott made no mistake with the penalty kick.

This early lead by Barry seemed to activate the home side and for the next 15 minutes or so they came back strongly and had the majority of the play.

This period of play put a lot of pressure on the Barry XV with the result that mistakes were made and three penalties were awarded against them.

The Taffs Well outside

half R. Barrett who was causing Barry a lot of problems with his tactical kicking during this period, made no mistake with all three kicks and put his side into a 9-3 lead.

Barry seemed to be shocked by being six points adrift and started to get their act together in the last quarter of the first half with some penetrating play. After 35 minutes a brilliant break by Einar Scott put centre Brad White charging towards the line for what seemed to be a certain try.

Sadly it was not to be and Taffs Well were awarded a relieving penalty kick for what appeared to be a crossing manoeuvre by the Barry backs.

It is fair to say that one of the main faults of the Barry side in the first half was that they seemed to be giving away too much ball by kicking into the opponents' half rather than hanging on to the ball and setting up attacking opportunities for their backs to have a run.

This enabled Taffs Well to set up attacking movements of their own and it was during one of these, right on the stroke of half-time, that the Barry full back Danny Ryan was adjudged to have tackled the Taffs Well centre without the ball and, to the shock of supporters on both sides, was shown a red card.

If this was not enough Taffs Well were also awarded a penalty try. With R. Barrett making no mistake with the conversion the halftime

score was Taffs Well 16, Barry 3.

Whatever the contents of head coach Jon Bryant's team talk, it had a dramatic effect because Barry looked a different side altogether in the second half.

In the 45th minute playing numbers on both sides were equalized when the Taffs Well scrum half was shown red for illegal use of the boot.

The ensuing penalty kick by E. Scott was just wide and so the score of 16-3 remained.

Two minutes later, however, Scott made up for his missed kick with a penetrating little run to score Barry's first try under the posts to which he added the extra two points. All of a sudden it was game on.

Barry continued to attack and another excellent run and passing movement by Dave Provis and Brad White was stopped just short of the Taffs Well line.

It was not long to wait however for another try by Barry.

After a strong piece of scrummaging by the Barry pack flanker Luke O'Sullivan went over the line to score Barry's second try, which Einar Scott converted to make the score 16-17 and Barry were on the move.

From this moment on it is fair to say that Barry had most of the play with many an attack being launched on the Taffs Well line.

It was during one of these attacks that Barry centre Brad White made a terrific break from his own 25 yard line only to

be deemed to have been held up on the Taffs Well line.

From the resulting scrum however Hywel Jones scored Barry's third try which Scott converted once again. Barry continued to attack the Taffs Well line and after a good take in the air and penetrating run by Dave Provis he slipped the ball to Einar Scott who scored a great try wide out to give his side a well deserved bonus point. The kick failed, but the score was 29-16 in Barry's favour.

To their credit Taffs Well did not lie down and continued to attack Barry when giving the opportunity.

Their outside half R. Barrett, who had a good game for the home side,

continued to relieve the pressure on his side with long defensive kicks way into the Barry half and after 65 minutes play he slotted over a 45 yard penalty after a Barry player transgressed.

For the rest of the game it was all Barry and their efforts were rewarded once again when a Taffs Well player was caught behind his own line with the ball after a long ranging kick by Owain Poole.

From the resulting five yard scrum the ball was passed neatly through the Barry backs and Tom Perry scored a good try for Barry in the corner which was converted by Scott once again from wide out.

The final score of the day came after 75 minutes when, after a good piece of forward play, Barry hooker Alyn Evans went over for try number six which replacement outside half Richie O'Sullivan converted for a final score of Taffs Well 19, Barry RFC 43.

Team: A. Evans, S. Vidal, J. Hollister, G. Jones, J. Oaten, O. Poole, L. O'Sullivan, H. Jones, J. Gallivan, E. Scott, W. Jones, T. Perry, B. White, D. Provis and D. Ryan. Replacements (all used): N. Lundy, J. Flynn, J. Giddings, T. Lee and R. O'Sullivan.

The next match is a cup game against Nantymoel RFC on Saturday, December 13, at the Reservoir Field, kick off 2.30pm.

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Action from Barry's game with Taffs Well. PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.

Bruno still packs a punch (as a speaker in Cowbridge!)



FRANK EXCHANGE: Bruno opens up on life before and after boxing.

THE giant figure strolls amiably into the function room at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, instantly recognisable as the people's champion he once was, as the entire lunchtime gathering rise to their feet to greet him with warm chants of "Bruno...o Bruno...o"

Nearly two decades after he hung up his gloves, Frank Bruno MBE still retains the aura and self-effacing manner that endeared him to a nation fascinated by the true-life, rags-to-riches story of a troubled youngster from a humble London background, who went on to realise his dream of becoming world heavyweight boxing champion in 1995.

An admitted 'problem child', he began boxing at the tender age of eight and went on to become the youngest ever British amateur champion at the age of 18 with a record of 20 wins, one loss (which he subsequently avenged).

His remarkable professional career saw him win 40 of his 45 bouts (38 by way of knockout) before it was ended by an eye injury in losing his WBC title to fearsome 'Iron' Mike Tyson in 1996.

Like Henry Cooper before him, his modesty, good humour, and tongue-in-cheek, self-deprecating wit are legendary qualities that explain his enduring appeal, all of which were in evidence on his first visit to the Vale town - though he was very quick to point out: "I've been to Wales many times. Welsh boxing fans love their sport and many used to travel to watch me during my career."

"I bump into Welsh people all over Europe who tell me where they saw me box, or what they were doing when they watched one of my fights on TV."

Despite early obstacles, the young Bruno clung tenaciously to his dream - "the more setbacks I had, the more determined I was to succeed."

These are qualities that stood him in good stead after he retired when he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder that required medical treatment (about which he is typically candid) before he could resume public life, this time as an entertainer and much in demand after-dinner speaker.

His humour shines through when he is asked - what is the hardest punch to defend against? The answer comes swift as a right hook - "The one you don't see!"

Who was the hardest puncher he faced? "The taxman!" he says, before adding more seriously that it wasn't Tyson, but one Jumbo Cummings.

Promising to return soon to meet his still loyal army of Welsh fans, he adds - "I still have to learn the Welsh national anthem in Welsh, but I can say Kroy-so ee Gumree!"

And this nicest of sporting legends departs to a standing ovation and more chants of 'Bruno...o Bruno...o' ringing in his ears.

Don John

Chess teams in action

THE week started with the west Wales Winter Congress.

Barry sent the usual suspects, Lee Davis, Craig Wolcock and Nigel Ralphs to play in the Open Section. On this occasion they were accompanied by Dave Parsons to play in the major section.

None of our players could be bothered to travel to Swansea three times on successive days to play in the minor section although I am sure a few of them considered it.

All four of our players managed at least one win, one draw and one defeat to return with remarkably similar scores. From their five games Nigel performed the best to score three points while each of the others returned with two and a half points. On this occasion none of our players threatened to win the tournament - still there is next year!

We also had four league games to play. In the first division the Bosons made the short journey to Cardiff to play the Bishops. We returned home with a 3-2 victory. This consolidates our position in the leading pack, moving up to fourth.

With the Woodpushers also earning a narrow victory the Camelots still lead the table by 3.5 points, having almost reached the halfway stage in the season.

In division three the Quarks played host to the Caerphilly Knights. At last after five consecutive 3-2 wins the bubble has burst and this time we managed to win by 4-1.

Chris Green continued his excellent season winning his fifth game for the Quarks out of six attempts. The

Quarks now move up to second in the table but Pontypridd have a game in hand.

We remain only 4.5 points above seventh place in what is turning out to be a close division. Are we chasing promotion or merely looking to avoid relegation? Perhaps the next match might tell us as we have a weakened team expected to take on the Cardiff Dragons.

In the bottom division the Gambits had matches on consecutive days against champions-elect North Cardiff Titans followed by an away game against North Cardiff Ravens.

All five of the Titans players outranked all of our team, so although we lost 3-2 that is still a good result against a team that is winning every match. Against the Ravens we were satisfied to return home with a 3-2 win.

My man of the week is David Jones who gained a great victory against Roy Purnell. David currently has a ranking of 850 whereas Roy is ranked at 1373.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES



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